SNOOKER 50 P

THE SIMES

No. 66,445 **WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24 1999** http://www.the-times.co.uk Double Free FIVE TESTS FOR EUROPE tokens cinema The Times today tickets looks forward to what must change before any referendum page 21 page 19 Token page 17

PLUS Inter//face: PlayStation game of the decade

Sterling could vanish in five years

Blair begins battle for the euro

By Philip Webster POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday set Britain on a course that could see the end of sterling within five years.

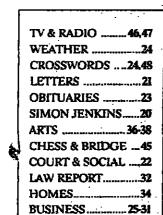
He prepared the stage for one of the biggest political battles of the century by launching a 30-month campaign to persuade the country that it should enter the European single currency.

In a marked shift of ge the Prime Minister gave busi-ness the signal that it has been demanding of the Government's intent to take Britain into the euro if the economic conditions are right.

He announced that legislation is to be rushed through to enable tens of millions of pounds to be spent in each of three departments — Social Security, the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise - to make their computer systems compatible for the euro.

He outlined a timetable for British entry to the euro and the abolition of sterling considerably shorter than that being ollowed by the 11 European Union countries already in eu-

Although Mr Blair insisted that British membership was not inevitable, the reaction of leading business organisations and senior pro-Europeans across the political divide confirmed that they believe he has taken his biggest step so far towards that goal. Companies had complained that Mr Blair could not expect them to



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Mr Blair has given lobbyists for monetary union the signal they have long demanded?

Leading article, page 21 Debate, page 10 Peter Riddell, Page 11

stump up the £3.5 billion needed to convert to the euro if the Government was not itself giving a stronger commitment, inig the spending of cash. As Mr Blair presented a

65-page "national changeover plan" to prepare the country for the option of going into the euro, he made plain that he would put himself at the head of the "Yes" campaign in a referendum. He told a packed and noisy Commons: "We can no longer afford to pretend either that the euro does not exist or that Britain should not actively prepare for it. Such a denial of reality does not promote Britain's interests, it betravs them."

The Prime Minister's statement exposed the continuing divisions in both the main parties over the euro, with leading Tory pro-Europeans such as

Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine ostentatiously sitting together as a group and warmly welcoming Mr Blair's words. But the Tory leadership and the large majority of Tory MPs will fight the euro up to and through the next election campaign. William Ha tion campaign. William Hague accused the Prime Minister of committing the country to an "unnecessary, expensive and time-consuming" course of action for which the voters had never given their consent.

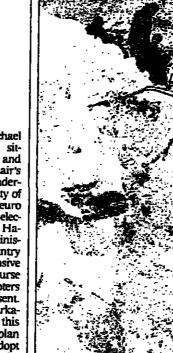
"Hasn't it been a remarkably short journey from this love of the pound to the plan he announced today to adopt euro and abolish the pound?" he said, referring to a 1997 article Mr Blair wrote in The Sun under the headline love for the pound".

as before, there will be no Govthis side of a general election. But the clear expectation is that if Labour wins again, that decision will come soon afterwards, possibly in late 2001 if the general election is called in he early summer of that year.

coin would vanish.

ernment decision on the euro

the plan is for a four-month referendum campaign. If the British people vote for entry there would be between two years and 30 months of intense pret arations for automatic cash machines and supermarket tills to be changed, ending with the introduction of euro notes and coins. After a further period of up to six months - but possibly as short as two months - sterling notes and



Mr Blair made plain that,

The timetable envisaged by

through an Austrian ski resort vesterday, killing at least seven people and burving up to 40 others beneath thousands of tons of snow. Rescuers in the Tyrolean community of Galtur were

The plan is silent, however, on the key date at which sterling would be locked into the euro — the effective date that Britain joins the single currency. It is likely to be within a year of the referendum decision but a lengthy, unresolved argument is proceeding between the Treasury, which wants a short period to avoid Continued on page 2, col 5

avalanche hits Austrian resort BY NIGEL GLASS, IN VIENNA most simultaneously. Plumes GERMANY ... of snow blocked out the sur and vibrations triggered falls HUGE avalanche swept in neighbouring resorts.

As the emergency services struggled to reach the scene. near the Swiss border, radio appeals for tourists with medical experience were broadcast. Soldiers with night-sights, heat-seeking equipment and sniffer dogs were confined to their barracks by the bad weather.

The area is popular with British holidaymakers. The Foreign Office was waiting for information about possible casualties and ski companies were organising head counts of their clients in the resort. Chris Laming, comunica-tions director of P&O Stena



The Swiss Army helps rescuers in Evolene yesterday after two avalanches hit the Swiss resort. About 40,000 people have been stranded by avalanches

Rescuers hunt for survivors after

in Galtur since Friday with his wife Pauline and two children. said: "The sky went black and a huge cloud of powder snow covered the whole village. I saw people running in and out of our hotel. Terrified parents were searching for their chil-

Mr Laming, from Dover, said: "The incredible thing was that there was absolutely

light go and this swirling pow der snow crash into the hotel He said the disaster happened as ski- instructors were organising a light-hearted

race in a central area called the Dorfplatz. The slopes are closed, but they were racing inside the village and the Dorfplatz was very crowded. The spot where the avalanche hit is covered with snow many feet deep and that's where they are digging and probing with Franz Wenko, a hotel opera-

tor, said: "We were drinking hot mulled wine, when suddenly it started. The lights went out. It was dark. There was only dust and snow. We got

Other avalanches have killed at least 11 people throughout Europe and hundreds of Britons are among at least 40,000 people stranded in resorts experiencing their heaviest snowfalls in living memory

British tour operators made arrangements to transfer clients who had been due to fly to Galtür next weekend to safer resorts. Last weekend, Inghams airlifted 12 holidaymakers away because of the risk of avalanche. Britons with relatives in the area can contact the following telephone number: 0043 512 5900 2500.

Snow chaos, page 4

Visions vie with values

THIS will be a battle royal. Few can have watched yesterday's Commons clash over the euro without thrilling to a sense of political history.

And not just between par-ties. Watching the isolation of one bench of Tory Europeanists - the tension in their faces and voices - it was hard to believe their differences can be contained much longer.
The impromptu illuminated

best. Though vastly signifi-cant, the Prime Minister's prepared text was dull and overlong. But William Hague's offthe-cuff response showed resoundingly the power with which the anti-euro cause can be projected; while Tony

POLITICAL SKETCH **Matthew Parris**

ing demonstration of how Tory lip-service to an open mind on the euro will be blown away.

Mr Blair's Statement was peppered with provisos. De-tails of how. "should it choose to do so, Britain could join" popped up in the first paragraph. "In principle", and "if" soon joined the chorus of conditionality.

But to study body language and intonation - head raised for every "when", voice low-ered for each "if" - was to hear more of a precautionary.

the promise of an open mind. They resembled a legalistic "terms & conditions apply". Mr Blair might as well have winked.

frantically trying to reach the

trapped as darkness fell. Sever-

al people were pulled out alive,

suffering from serious inju-

ries. Soldiers joined the hunt,

but their efforts were ham-

pered by poor weather, which

prevented help being airlifted to the Paznaun Valley.

Witnesses said several snow

falls hit the town, which had

been cut off for three days, al-

Most of his Statement sounded like Whitehall-speak. with blank final page and a civil servant's note: "[PM to add thoughtful ending]". He did. To sound contempla-

tive, Mr Blair reaches for his V-words: "vision" and "values". These are beginning to excite derision. "We have a vision, but it is a vision that is practical. We should have confidence both in our vision and our pragmatism." This was met with hoots.

I noticed again a keynote in

Unilever makes £5bn payout

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch consumer goods company, is to return a record £5 billion to its shareholders by way of a special dividend. The company said it had no use for the cash which amounts to 10 per cent of its stockmarket value. The payout amounts to 66.13p

Race favourite put down

Bint Aliayl, the favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, has been put down after suffering a leg fracture on the gallops at near Lam-Kingsdown. bourne. She was rated Europe's champion two-year-old

.... Page 43

filly last season.....

By Michael Harvey

THE family of Stephen Lawrence is expected to launch an unprecedented civil action for damages against the Metropolitan Police.

Doreen and Neville Lawrence and their legal advisers have discussed a claim for negligence after reading a damning report of the police investigation into their son's murder. The judicial inquiry report is to be released today.

The Lawrences also hope that the Crown Prosecution Service will use evidence gathered at the inquiry, headed by

police force for damages Cluny, to bring charges of per-

AND STEWART TENDLER

jury against the five young men accused of the killing. Mr Lawrence said yesterday: "I'm still clinging to the hope of justice. When these guys gave evidence, they were lying and I am hoping that they are going to recommend that these guys be tried for perjury. It carries a 15-year sentence. I'll be happy with that."

Lawrence family set to sue

Last night Sir Paul Condon. the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, put the finishing touches to a ten-point plan to restore public confidence in his force. The project, which will combine a hearts and

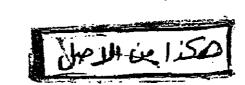
The proposals, described as radical, is expected to include plans for officers to wear name tags on duty so that they can be identified. The Yard is also launching training for all senior officers so that they can evaluate murder cases.

A civil action by the Law-rences could see individual of-ficers, many of whom are criticised heavily in the inquiry report being sued, or Sir Paul Condon as head of the force or both. A family friend said: "No final decision has been taken.

Lewisham murder, page 5



Business Systems





HOME NEWS

Scientists develop test to identify meningitis in minutes

المكذا من المزمل

meningitis within 30 minutes at a cost of just £2 has been developed by British scientists.

The discovery represents a break-through in tackling the killer disease as early treatment is vital to save lives and prevent epidemics. The test shows not only if a patient is suffering from the disease but also which of the three main strains.

Vaccine is effective against only the C strain, which occurs in 25 per cent of cases. Since it takes several Early treatment of killer disease will save lives and prevent epidemics, Ian Murray reports

the earlier contacts of the sick person are immunised the better the chance of preventing an epidemic. In the recent outbreak at Pontypridd in South Wales it took three days to establish that group C was involved before starting the vaccina-tions programme. With the new test it would be possible to start iately. Julia Warren, of the Meningitis Research Foundation. said: This will revolutionise diagnosis worldwide and is tremendously exciting. It has enormous public health consequences." The foundation paid £85,000 to fund the research. "This is wonderful value for money," she said.

The new method, developed by scientists at Cardiff University and

the University of Wales College of Medicine, uses equipment that can be bought for only £1,000 and costs

£2 per test.
A blood sample is put through an ultrasound scanner enhancer to provide an image that can be easily read. This shows if a meningococcal disease is present and identifies which of the three main strains is involved. Because patients suffering

from suspected meningitis are immediately given antibiotics, it is almost impossible to grow a culture that will show what strain of the disease has caused the illness.

Accurate diagnosis has therefore been possible only by sending a lumbar puncture sample to a lab-oratory in Manchester where the DNA eventually shows what the patient has been suffering. Trials at

five hospitals in Britain and Ireland have shown that the new test is superior to traditional culture techniques and as effective as DNA tests even though it takes only a fraction of the time and can be performed by staff after very

little training. Edward Kaczmarski, head of the Public Health Laboratory Service's meningococcal reference unit in

Manchester, said: "Knowing what strain of meningitis we are dealing with is important in the manage-ment of contacts and the identification of outbreaks."

Details of the way the new test works are shown on Tomorrow World on BBC 1 tonight. Philip Monk, a public health consultant, told the programme that the ability to make an early diagnosis would allow an early intervention in an outbreak of the disease and would therefore save lives.

immunising people almost immed-MP quits over leak of report to Cook

THE arms-to-Africa affair dealt another blow to Robin Cook yesterday when a La-bour MP resigned from the inquiry committee after admitting he had leaked a copy of its findings to the Foreign Secre-

Ernie Ross, MP for Dundee West, sent a draft copy of the cross-party Foreign Affairs Se-lect Committee findings to Mr Cook four weeks before it was officially published.

Mr Ross admitted his role as Mr Cook was forced to concede in a Commons written reply that he had received a eaked copy of the report, one of the most hard-hitting and critical of a department in re-

Tories on the committee had previously complained that Mr Cook appeared remarkably well briefed on the contents of the report in broadcast interviews before it was pub-

Although a severe embarrassment to the Foreign Secretary, the Opposition turned their fire on one of his middleranking ministers, Tony Lloyd, whom they accused of

When asked last week who was the first person in the Foreign Office to see the report, Mr Lloyd side-stepped the question and answered in a written Commons reply that copies were collected on publication day. Cheryl Gillan.



Ross: sent copy of draft report to Robin Cook

Tory foreign affairs spokes-woman, said that if Mr Lloyd had been aware of the leak, he

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said the "clear effect" of Mr Lloyd's reply had been "to mislead Parliament". He said Mr Lloyd should come to the Commons to give an immediate explana-

Mr Ross's admission that he had acted against one of the foundations of the select committee system, that it exists to call the executive to account, failed to surprise some of his

During the protracted committee sessions into the Sierra Leone affair, Mr Ross was often an obstructive force to the questioning of ministers and civil servants, and once even adjourned a hearing because of the line of inquiry taken by one of the committee mem-

Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Falkirk West, said: "Ernie has at last been exposed as a Government nark. He has abrogated his responsibilities as a parliamentarian."

sode also traised questions for Mr Cook, "Robin should have refused to accept it. He is a parliamentarian as well as a Min-

In his statement, Mr Ross admitted he had breached the confidence of the committee, but had done so because of his concerns about the way the committee's approach.

He said: "I accept without reservation that I was wrong to do this and consequently it was right for me to resign from the committee. "I express my sincere apolo-

gies to the committee and was very grateful for the understanding shown to me by all of A Foreign Office spokesman

said that after receiving the leak, the department had neither tried to interfere with the committee nor done its own leaking to the media.



Fiona Jones, MP for Newark. arriving at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday

The Tory leader had a fine old time

deriding the Prime Minister for his

protestations of even-handedness, and

warning the House of his real pur-

pose. Hague's jokes were as good as

ever, but beneath lay the force of con-

viction and a lucid argument. Three

quarters of the Tory ranks rallied with

relief to this performance, and said as

But a handful hated it. Sir Edward

Heath was utterly dismissive. Ken-

neth Clarke cheerfully ignored it. Ian

Taylor sounded close to snapping and

Michael Heseltine sounded sad-

When Sir Archie Hamilton, the chair-

man of the Tory backbench 1922 Com-

mittee, offered his colleagues a Major-

ite middle position ('too early to

judge") around which they could

unite, the Europeanists looked uninter-

They do judge: the Eurosceptics judge too; the wish to pretend other-

wise is ebbing. Yesterday the tide

much in their interventions.

Candidate and agent 'went on spending spree'

By Adam Fresco

A LABOUR MP failed to declare part of her election expenses to run a campaign that helped her win a seat from the Tories at the general election. a court was told yesterday.

Fiona Jones, 4l, the Labour MP for Newark, broke election law by spending double the permitted amount, Nottingham Crown Court was told. Mrs Jones and her agent, Des Whicher, both deny making a false declaration of election expenses in June 1997, contrary to the Representa-

tion of the People Act 1983. Paul Mann, for the prosecution, told the court that after every general election an MP and the agent had to declare what their election expenses amounted to. There is a legal limit as to how much money a candidate can spend." The limit for Newark was £8,905; Mrs Jones and Mr Whicher declared £8,514.

"They also declared that was the amount of money they had received in donations to fund that campaign. The allegation is the defendants received and spent more than twice that amount and in declaring £8.514 they deliber-ately lied," Mr Mann said.

He added: "We will suggest it must have been apparent to these defendants from the outset of this campaign it was going to be a costlier one than in the past."

The party opened up a bank account and Mr Whicher became one of the signatories in October 1996. "When Mr Whicher took over the ac-count it had a little under £2,000. That would have been by no means enough to fight a campaign these two people had in mind."

They received a donation of just over £6,000 for the campaign. "Mrs Jones and Mr Whicher were then able to begin spending in earnest."

In January 1997 Mrs Jones hired a Toyota until after the election. "She had a car of her own," said Mr Mann, "as did her husband. We suggest the acquisition of this rather smart red vehicle was all to do with image." The court heard that the expenses for the car were incorrectly entered. After they had hired an of-

fice, equipped it and hired three telephonists, there was less than £2,000 in the account. Mr Mann said: "It was within a matter of a few weeks of polling day. In that month, beautifully timed, a company provided a further £10,000.

"According to one prosecu-tion witness, Mr Whicher confided in her that his policy was to be 'spend, spend, spend': The trial continues.

posed to the single currency. He added

that once the decision to join the single

currency had been taken. Britain could

move to membership "considerably fast-er" than the 11 original euro-zone mem-

bers. He also stressed the importance of

the five economic tests the Government

had set for membership being satisified.

their systems to the new currency.

Smaller businesses could use "off the

shelf' systems, but larger firms would

The CBI welcomed the changeover

plans but called for a clearer commit-

ment to joining. Other business chiefs

raised the issue of economic conver-

gence, calling for a clearer signal on

how the Government would get the eco-

nomics right for Britain to sign up for

But Ruth Lea, head of policy at the In-

stitute of Directors, criticised the govern-

ment and said many smaller firms

would face huge costs, with no return if they did not deal with Europe.

face "more intricate challenges".

All businesses would need to adapt

NEWS IN BRIEF Carey plan to boycott the Dome

The Archbishop of Canter-bury is to lead a boycott of the Millennium Dome celebrations if Christianity is side lined on New Year's Eve.

Dr George Carey, in an interview in tomorrow's Catholic Herald, said that he would prefer to go to church if there was to be no Christian component in the celebrations, and that Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, would also boycott the Millennium Dome ceremony.

"If we are invited; and if there is going to be a significant moment of silence, saying the Lord's Prayer together, perhaps one or two other prayers, it will be worthwhile doing that. If we cannot be guaranteed that, we will be in our churches," Dr Carey said. "It will be a wonderful, glorious but essentially factless ceremony and anniversary unless it is connected with the birth of Je-

Work is skin-deep Long-term unemployed will receive funds to have visible tattoos removed to make it easier for them to get a job, in a trial scheme in Coventry. They may also get new haircuts, suits, and counselling for drink or drug problems to help to present a better image. The E2 million scheme for the over-25s aims to get 700 into work in 18 months.

Teaching 'craft'

Teaching is a craft not a profes Schools said. Chris Woodhead denied the term was critical. "My aim is to rescue teachers from the culture of deference : which has for too long emascu-_: lated professional confidence. Good teaching is more than that a complex of technocratic competencies," he said in the annual Ofsted lecture.

Anti-fur Bill

A Private Member's Bill to end fur farming in Britain was unveiled yesterday by Maria Ea-gle, Labour MP for Liverpool Garston. It has cross-party support and the backing of animal welfare groups. The Bill aims to outlaw the "cruel and barbaric" farming of animals for fur and compensate producers for the loss of their live-

Joint force plan

RAF Harriers are to be combined with the Royal Navy's Sea Harriers as a single train ing and command organisation, the Defence Secretary said. Giving details of the plan, called Joint Force 2000, George Robertson said that air crews from the Navy and RAF would retain their uniforms and preserve their "single Service ethos".

Jog the memory

Mice that go running on an exercise wheel whenever they want create more cells in the hippocampus, the area of the brain involved in learning and memory, say scientists at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California. It is not known if this works for humans, but more people from the institute have taken up jogging

easily mocked for this. Irvine defends reforms Millennium sign of The Times

Legal profession given warning at Times Law Awards

THE Lord Chancellor last he was rushing the legal profession into radical civil justice reforms, which take effect in

Lord Irvine of Lairg said that the draft rules for the changes, which bring in a quicker, cheaper system of civil justice, had been available since last July.
Judges will become trial managers, dictating the pace

of litigation, setting strict timetables and imposing sanctions if litigants do not comply. Some solicitors have expressed fears that they have

not had enough time to get to grips with the final rules, pub-lished earlier this month. But Lord Irvine said: "Prudent lawyers have been using them for several months now as a guide to what will be expected of them. They are ready for April's changes. We are on time and the whole profession

must be on time too." Lord Irvine was speaking at the presentation of The Times Law Awards, held with One Essex Court, the chambers of Anthony Grabiner, QC.

The winning essay on the title "Access to Justice - Who pays the Price?" was by Mike Thomas, a student at University College, Oxford, He re-ceived £3,000.

continued from page 1

future." The euro simply is.

this Prime Minister's approach to per-

suasion. The word "real" kept crop-

ping up. We must get real. The euro is

happening - like it or not. There is no

opposing reality, "no going back" (in

his words) "from the road to the

This inevitable-ist view of history

sounds bold but is secretly timid, side-

stepping questions of what is wise or right. "Get into what is the real world

today!" Blair snapped at the Tory Eurosceptic, Sir Michael Spicer.

But on the attack Blair was formid-

able. Answering William Hague, he

derided the ten-year limit on the Tory

'no' to the euro. Was the Tory position

(asked Blair) to offer a ten-year guar-

antee on "a thousand years of

Just as Blair's "if" came with a

wink, so had Hague's "not for the next

ten years". Blair meant "soon" and

Hague meant "never". Each was

history"?

Second prize went to Saran Palin, who is training to be a barrister at the Inns of Court School of Law after taking a history degree at Oxford; and the third prize went to Susana Sava, a Romanian student studying law at the London School of Economics. A special prize went to Rachael Levene. a 17-year-old schoolgirl from Nottingham.

Full details of the prizewinners and the winning essay will be published in The Times law pages next Tuesday.



looked irreversible.

Headline news: the Millennium sculpture By Mark Henderson

Visions and values Blair push for euro

Continued from page 1

political uncertainty, and the banks and

business, which want a longer time to

Treasury officials said the Govern-

ment would attempt to demonstrate

that it had achieved economic stability

in the runup to euro entry. They denied

that this would amount to "shadowing

Mr Blair was backed by Paddy Ash-

down who said the Government had

"crossed the Rubicon" and urged minis-

ters openly to make the case for the single currency. With other Tory MPs glow-ering beside them, Mr Heseltine, Mr

Clarke and Sir Edward Heath rowed in

But there was also dissent from veter-

an Labour Eurosceptics with Dennis

Skinner warning against experiments

with "genetically-modified currencies"

and Tony Benn demanding a free vote

Mr Blair retorted by mocking the un-

likely "Thatcher-Portillo-Benn axis" op-

for Labour MPs and the Cabinet.

behind the Government.

THE TIMES is to be the official millennium sponsor of the Prime Meridian line at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. The line of 0 degrees longitude - from which every clock in the world is set - will be marked by an electronic news feed that allows visitors to stand on the meridian and read up-to-the minute headlines from The Times' website. The screen will also show facts about time.

the Times Millennium Sculp-

At the end of the line will stand a 26 metre Times Millennium Sculpture. a striking steel structure with a form that echoes the astronomical

timepieces housed in the Royal Observatory. The sculpture. tional importance of the designed by the architect Cris-Prime Meridian. The Meriditina Garcia for 4i. is a twin to

ture unveiled last year on London's Cromwell Road. Greenwich has been recog-nised worldwide as the home of time since 1884, when the international Meridian Conference fixed the precise position of longitude 0. Dr Kristen Lip-pincott, director of the Royal Observatory, said: "We are delighted to welcome The Times to the Greenwich Meridian 2000 project. The Times spon-sorship of the Meridian Line and the electronic news feed along the line at the Observaan Line and The Times Millennium Sculpture will be focal points for the forthcoming millennium celebrations." Planning permission for the project was granted until 2003 by Greenwich Council last week, and it will be formally launched in the spring.

Building work, expected to last five weeks, will begin as soon as ancient monuments permission is obtained from the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott. Structural engineers are Atelier One and project management will be by Crowe and Nicholas.

In the year 2000

safeguards

will fail



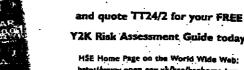
Millennium Bug problems are not confined to computers.

Anything with an embedded chip could fail resulting in injury or death.

Guidance from the Health and Safety Executive

can help keep your business running.

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Lottery funds granted for memorial to 'forgotten' soldiers from around world who fought for Britain

Gates to honour colonial war dead

THE courage of millions of sol-diers from India, Africa and the Caribbean who volun-teered to fight for the British Empire will be saluted with commemorative gates to be crected beside Buckingham

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MILL

The state of the s

The Memorial Gates on Constitution Hill, part-funded by £900.000 from the National Lottery, will be the most prominent symbol yet of co-operation between Britain and people from the former colonies in two world wars.

The curry millionaire Ghulum Noon and the steel billionaire Lakshmi Mittal are among the most influential Asians in Britain forming the driving force of the

Memorial Gates Trust. The gates were the idea of Baroness Flather, the first Asian woman whose.

served in the First World War in Mesopotamia, where 29,555 of

61.800 deaths were Indian. Baroness Flather said: Somebody once asked me Does Remembrance Sunday mean anything to you? I didn't know what to do with that person, hit them or what, because people don't realise that so many of our people

Her father, Aftab Rai, a student in Dublin in 1914, volunteered to serve as a medical orderly after Mahatma Gandhi said indians could help the war effort but must not fight. During the Second World War, Mr Rai's cutlery factory in India made bayonets, The gates will be sited at the

top of Constitution Hill, near Hyde Park Corner, a spot which has to be cordoned off frequently with bollards. Con-stitution Hill was originally planted with a parade of trees for William III, who rode from Kensington Palace daily to the court at St James. It is named after the King's "constitutional". Today the route is used twice daily by guardsmen, rid-

A competition is being launched to design and build what will be the most prestigious metalwork commission since the 1993 opening of the Hyde Park gates dedicated to

People in Britain just don't realise that so many of our people were in the wars?

> Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. There will be three pairs of gates spanning just over 50ft. They must be low enough to act as a frame for Wellington Arch.

> Near by, a new crossing will allow pedestrians and riders to get from Green Park to Hyde Park Corner. The design will probably feature pea-cocks, which symbolise hon-our in South Asia, as well as African and Caribbean motifs.

For Baroness Flather, who was ennobled by Margaret Thatcher in 1990 but left the Conservatives over Viscount Cranborne's sacking, the project is a personal triumph. She had to persuade the Mil-

to have claimed her life. Mrs

Lawson said: "She's taken

three overdoses already. It

was 50-50 with one overdose."

who has another daughter

aged 27, had contacted social

shortly before her death.

ing Ecstasy in 1995, urged the Government to offer more sup-

port for young people and

their parents.

Relatives said Mrs Lawson.

lennium Commission to back ing from Knightsbridge Bar-racks to Buckingham Palace and Whitehall.

Flather."

Lanka, Jamaica and Uganda, as well as Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

£900,000 to match the Millennium Commission's donation. Events will include dinners in the Tower of London and Banqueting House and a Septem-ber mela or Indian fete in Hyde Park.



How the gates may look: the memorial trust has launched a competition to design three pairs of gates on Constitution Hill. They are likely to feature Asian, African and Caribbean motifs

her idea, which was competing against other ethnic minority proposals for the last tranche of lottery money being spent to mark 2000.
There was hostility from some of the ethnic minority press. India Weekly wrote: One argument — some may call it the most persuasive for the abolition of the House of Lords is Baroness Shreela

Khudadad Khan: first

Indian holder of VC

At first the High Commissions of Int dia and Pakistan were ambivalent, believing that the wars had been fought for Britain. However, she has assembled as pa-

trons the High Commission-ers of India, Bangladesh, Sri

The trustees include Viscount Slim, whose father Field Marshal William Slim, commander of the 14th Army, believed his Indian divisions were among the world's best. Baroness Flather is launch-

an appeal to raise

The 'improvident' call to arms Indians were killed and 65,000 wounded.

"IT IS nothing short of a miracle which has called men from the uttermost ends of the Earth, some riding 20 days, which has caused human beings to do the most incalculable, improvident, and, from a narrow point of view, profitless things."

Thus Winston Churchill described to the House of Commons the Empire's response to the call to arms.

In the First World War, 1,440,500
Indians volunteered for military service

for the "mother country". In the Punjab. 500,000 men out of a population of 20 million joined up. and in Nepal, whose Gurkha regiment was an important part of the Indian Army, 73,000 out of three million volunteered. A total of 47,000

DIXONS

HURRY MUST END

ON TOP BRAND HI-FI

The first Indian to be awarded the Victoria Cross was Sepoy Khudadad Khan who in 1914, as the only survivor of a machine-gun team, went on fighting against overwhelming odds at Ypres. Another II Indians won Victoria Crosses.

Britain recruited 30,000 Africans into the King's African Rifles, as well as Indians, plus carriers, for the long East African campaign. Among Africans, at least 2.900 soldiers and 39,000 carriers died.

More than 15,000 men of the British West Indies Regiment saw action in France, Palestine. Egypt and Italy, and more than 2,000 of them were killed. By the end of the Second World War.

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there were 25 million people in the Indian Army. The Gurkhas lost 7,000 of their 120,000 men, because they served disproportionately as front-line troops.

The Indian Army took part in some of the toughest fighting in Burma. North Africa and Italy. and captured Monte Cassino. Of the 27 Victoria Crosses awarded during the Burma Campaign, 20 went to members of the Indian armed forces. Almost 6,000 West Indians served in the RAF, including 300 as aircrew. Some trained first with the Royal Canadian Air

More than 375,000 Africans fought in the Second World War in the Middle East, East Africa, Italy and the Far East.

Force. A total of 103 were decorated.

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Drug overdose blamed for death of girl, 13

By A CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL aged 13 has died from a suspected drugs overdose, it emerged yesterday. Leah Lawson's mother

found her daughter's body on the sofa of their Grimsby home on Saturday afternoon. Police were called and a Home Office pathologist carried out a post-mortem examination. An inquest will open after the results of toxicology tests are known. Leah is believed to have used drugs including her-oin in the past and had al-ready suffered overdoses.

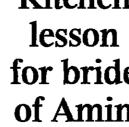
Her mother yesterday con-demned drug dealers who had blighted the Nunsthorpe esrate and said her "happy-golucky" daughter who had been drawn into a wrong crowd. She had everything to live for. How the drug dealers can do it I don't know," Jean Lawson told a local newspaper.

She said she had returned to her home on Saturday to find the girl slumped on the sofa. At first she thought Leah was asleep and wearing white lipstick but soon realised that she was dead.

The tragedy was the culmination in a downward spiral which started when Leah had hecome involved in "a bad

crowd", she said.

Leah dabbled in drugs and moved on to heroin, before trying for the first time the mixture of methadone, Valium and nitrazepam that is feared



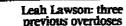
By Adam Sherwin

THE ex-wife of Idi Amin, the narrowly escaped jail yesterday when she admitted allow-

services and a local drugs sup-Sarah Kyolaba Amin. 42, port charity to try to get help. A spokeswoman for Northeast Lincolnshire County Council's social services department confirmed that the family had been in contact Anti-drugs campaigners were quick to highlight the growing cases of teenage drug abuse. Paul Betts, whose daughter Leah died from takrateur in 1997.

She cooked surrounded by vermin, filth and grease at the "S" restaurant in Forest Gate, East London. There was no soap, towels, hot water or ventilation. An environmental health officer was so horrified that the dilapidated premises were promptly closed, Snaresbrook Crown Court was told.

Amin admitted seven breaches of food hygiene standards. Judge Deva Pillay said this could normally command a prison sentence but the fact she had no previous convictions, had pleaded guilty and had "drastically" improved conditions at the premises which have reopened, meant he could take an "exceptionally lenient" course. She was given a conditional discharge and told to pay £1,000 costs.



Kitchen for bride of Amin

deposed Ugandan dictator. ing her London restaurant to become infested with cockroaches and mice.

was known as Suicide Sarah when she caught the tyrant's eye as a teenage go-go dancer with the Revolutionary Suicide Mechanised Regiment band. They parted in 1982. Yesterday she was said to have learnt inadequate kitchen lore from her mother when she went into business as a restau-



aıwa



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Beeton letters fetch £18,400

By ROBIN YOUNG

LETTERS penned by Mrs Beeton revealing that the Victorians' Delia Smith loathed dinner parties fetched £18,400 at auction yesterday.

The love letters sent by the then Isabella Mayson to Samucl Orchart Beeton shortly before their wedding in 1856. were snapped up by an anonymous buyer at Bonhams in

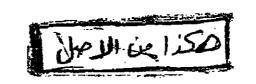
On one of the 16 letters which were signed Your affectionate Fatty" and "Yours pour toujours" - the celebrat-

ed author of the 1861 Book of Household Management writes: "Much to my annoyance I have discovered this

morning that I was invited to Mr White's tomorrow evening, so shall have to go through that terrible ordeal, a dinner party; I do so hate it; a good dance somewhere is much more in my line."

Writing from her family home in Epsom, Surrey, she implores Sam to attend an impending dinner party with her, writing "I do hope you will not disappoint me because you know very well these formal feeds I abominate... Pray do not leave me to sit three or four hours with some old man I care not a straw about." In another letter, she chides

ber husband-to-be for neglecting to visit her for 10 days. David Park, Bonhams' manuscripts specialist, said that the letters "shed a surprising new light on a woman who was the Delia Smith of



4 NEWS Snow chaos leaves 40,000 stranded

المكذا عن الاجل

Adrian Lee and Adam Sage in Paris report on how holiday dreams are turning into nightmares as

avalanches threaten key resorts

HUNDREDS of British holidaymakers were stranded yesterday as the worst snowfalls in living memory caused chaos in resorts throughout Europe. It was estimated that at least 40,000 people were cut off by heavy snow or the risk

of avalanche. A group of more than 50 British holidaymakers have been stranded in the Austrian resort of Lech since Saturday. unable to catch flights home.

Among them was Kenneth McKenzie, a solicitor from Chiswick, west London, his wife, Jane, their three children and a schoolfriend.

Snow has been falling constantly since the middle of last week making escape from the region impossible.
According to Mr McKenzie.

who was scheduled to fly home last weekend, there is a waiting list of more than 1,000 for private flights out.

The worst thing is the lack of information," he said. "It could be two days or five days before we get out. We are haemorrhaging money there is no novelty to it at all and people are frankly fed

He has been faxed work by his office and homework for his children, who are pupils at St Paul's in Hammersmith.

According to the authorities in Austria, the stress of being trapped is beginning to cause "psychological tension" in some resorts. "I have not seen any fist

fights yet," said Mr McKenzie. "But it is pretty fraught at the tourist office where people are trying to get information." With only two ski lifts out of

more than 30 open, there is little opportunity to ski. he said. The family is ready to leave at a moment's notice, and is prepared to leave luggage be-

hind if it means getting home. Helicopters flying injured people out for hospitalisation were yesterday bringing in food and tons of mail. which was piling up because entire valleys were cut off.

Other Britons are stranded in Ischgl, in the Tyrol, and

Atlantic

Ocean

Alps, where supplies of fresh

risk was at its lowest.

One British company, Pow-

stranded in other Swiss resorts and helicopters were be-

returning home complaining that they had been unable to ski for the majority of their

"It is a complete nightmare." said Natasha Wright, representative with Ski Weekend, which was using vans to take clients to other resorts where conditions were better. There they faced queues of more than two hours for lifts.

ment has advised people not to take skiing holidays.

There hasn't been this much snow in 50 years," said Bas Kuik, a spokesman for the Dutch tourist board. It would be the first time the board had advised people to keep away from Austria, Switzerland and

But British companies said they had no plans to suspend operations. Many were frantically switching clients away

ation of British Travel Agents (ABTA) said that only a handful of people had cancelled holidays because of the increased avalanche risk.

fice warned Britons to ensure that they had adequate insurance cover and to be aware of the risks of skiing off piste.

food have run out and diesel is being rationed.
It is feared that a massive wall of snow above Grindelwald could be dislodged at any time. Small convoys of lorries, their drivers carrying transmitters in case they are buried, were being allowed to enter the village at dawn, when the

derbyrne, has hired helicopters to airlift 120 clients out of Grindelwald. Thousands of people are

ing used to fly British tourists into St Moritz to begin holi-In the Chamonix area in France most runs were closed and some holidaymakers were

In Holland, the Govern-

France, he said.

from the worst hit resorts. A spokesman for the Associ-

Meanwhile, the Foreign Of-



Workers shovel snow from a roof in Klosters yesterday. Unusually heavy snowfalls in the Alps have triggered catastrophic avalanches and left many villages cut off

ain said that improved equipment for skiing and snowboarding was encouraging inexperienced people to be over

adventurous. Skis with wider ends and tips, and snowboards, have enabled relative novices to become reasonably accomplished more quickly than in the past and tempted them to seek the thrill of powder skiing off piste before they have sufficient experience.

The Ski Club of Great Brit-carry transmitters where there

UKRAINE

ROMANIA

Two feared

Carpathians

SERBIA BULGARIA Sea

AUSTRIA

Resorts cut off include St Anton, Ishgl, Lech, Züers and Staben. 55 missing in

Galtür after avalanche

ITALY ALBANIA

was a possibility of avalanche and not to rely on mobile telephones to call for help.

banned permanently.

Thousands of people, most of them tourists, are stranded at the ski resorts of Klosters and Davos in eastern Switzerland where the maximum avalanche alert is in effect, local

Road and rail access to the Swiss resorts has been blocked and the ski stations cut off with 26 roads impassable in

not been possible due to bad weather conditions.

In Chamonix French ski guides said that they knew that a large part of their clien-tele was drawn to the area by the promise of off-piste skiing and snowboarding and would go elsewhere if this was

Also, the 120,000 people emploved by French ski resorts create a lobby group in favour is difficult for the French Government or local politicians to

missing, feared dead, in an avauthorities said yesterday. alanche that yesterday swept away a house in Bristen in the

the canton of Grisons.
Transport by helicopter has

In the Evolene region in the southern Swiss canton of Val-

day night are feared to have killed 10 people after destroying nine chalets.

The bodies of two men in their twenties were found in a car, but eight others - includ-ing two French families - are still missing and the chances of finding them are increasing-

ly slim, according to rescuers. hit every 20 minutes.

During Monday in the Valais, an avalanche reportedly

A 42-year-old man is still

central canton of Uri, from

where some 200 people have

Rescuers and heavy equip-ment had to be ferried in by

helicopter because of ava-

snowfalls of the century para-

And one of the heaviest

been evacuated.

lanche risks.

southern Germany, stranding tens of thousands of passengers at train stations and freez-

ing traffic on the autobahns.

The city of Aachen, on the border with Belgium and The Netherlands, was cut off for hours after ten inches of snow fell overnight. Meteorologists called it the area's deepest snow of the century.

Along the swollen Rhine River, meanwhile, the first sand-

We're fed up — there's a waiting list of more

than 1,000 for private flights out of here?

bags were being laid in Col-

ogne as a precaution against

The water was still more

than three feet below flood lev-

el but was rising, pushed by

melting snow and rain from

the Swiss headwaters. Ship-

ping traffic was suspended on

The chaos extended into east-

em Europe and Scandinavia

large stretches of the river.

flooding.

missing and feared dead after they were caught in an avalanche on Sunday in Romania's Carpathian mountains, some 203 miles west of Bucha-

Heavy snowfalls followed by rain had flooded thousands of acres of Romanian farmland and cut off northwestern villages, local media said last

lanche had swept away the

two Czechs, who had left their

group to take a different route

on the snowbound Muntele

Snowstorms over the past

two days had prevented rescu-

ers from searching for the bod-

Heavy snows cut off hun-dreds of villages on the north-em border with Ukraine.

Mic mountain on Sunday.

ies, it said.

night. The independent Mediafax raise dikes on local rivers. Meteorologists are predicting more rain and snow

ighout the week In Finland rescuers called off search operations overnight, amid reports that an avalanche in the ski resort of Yl-4. laes may not have claimed any

gary flooded tens of villages

and swamped hundreds of

acres of land under various

crops.
The Romanian Defence

Ministry said that it had sent

troops with rubber boats to

evacuate villagers from a flood-

ed areas where soldiers were

also helping the population to

victims after all. On Monday reports had indicated eight people were miss-ing. But investigations using heat-detecting cameras had found no sign of bodies, the

STT/FNB news agency said

yesterday. In Hungary hundreds of families were evacuated after their homes collapsed due to snow melting after weeks of cold weather, while authorities in the east of the country are preparing for heavy flood-

ais, dual avalanches on Sun-Two Czech tourists were Courts try to curb off-piste thrill-seekers

ing six Britons, killed in the French Alps alone since the start of the year, this holiday season is one of the deadliest on record.

Michel Daloz, a forecaster with the French weather office. Meteo France, said "extreme conditions" were to blame.

"Usually we could expect about one metre of snow since the beginning of the season at an altitude of 2,000 metres (6,560ft) in the Alps. This year we have had three metres of snow. That only happens every decade or so.
"But we have also had high winds

and spells of warm weather which have made the snow deeply unstable and provoked a maximum risk of avalanches. That is absolutely exceptional. And elsewhere in Europe it Heavy falls and warm weather maximising

the dangers, writes Adam Sage in Paris

M Daloz said conditions would im-

prove slightly towards the end of this week and then deteriorate. But the weather is only part of the

explanation for the high death rate in the mountains across Europe. The growing popularity of skiing holidays is another. The number of foreign holiday-

makers who head for the French Alps has increased from \$40,000 in 1987 to an estimated 1.6 million this year. Among them are more than 50,000 Britons. About 900,000 French tourists will stay in Alpine

resorts this winter. French police say

fatal accidents since "there is no such thing as a risk-free mountain". However, the attraction of off-piste activities notably snowboarding. has added to the death rate, since

the result is an inevitable increase in

these pursuits often take holidaymakers on to slopes prone to avalanches. One survey in France reported that up to 30 per cent of skiers and snowboarders were tempted to leave official pistes in pursuit of excitement and freedom

The French authorities have tried to crack down, making it a criminal offence to wander off piste. Yet their difficulties were illustrated on Monday by the weakness of the case against three Britons who told a French court that they stumbled by accident on to a slope that had been

closed in Val d'Isère. The holidaymakers face fines of Fr5.000 (£510) if found guilty of endangering the lives of their rescuers. Elsewhere the authorities have tried to reduce risks by closing popular resorts. But with winter holidays

generating Fr40 billion for the French economy there is pressure to keep open the pistes.

Joel Eeckoudt, a town half official in Praz de Lys in the French Alps, said that the Britons among the 5.000 tourists caught in his resort since Saturday had abandoned the

slopes. They are playing cards. I think they are having a very good

back. "French officials are caught between the conflicting demands of a powerful tourist industry and the acute need to impose safety on popular mountain slopes. It is a dilemma they have been unable to resolve.

the prefecture of the Haute-Savoie in the French Alps took the unprecedented step of making it temporarily a criminal offence to go off piste. But it had to back down as ski-lift operators and mountain guides in the town of Chamonix threatened to

Earlier this month, for instance,

strike in protest. Police in Chamonix say one way of reducing fatal accidents is for tourists to seek better information on the prevailing weather conditions. Too often, officers say, holidaymakers ignore safety warnings and the risks.



A tourist carries his daughter from a helicopter after being airlifted from an avalanche zone yesterday

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Tande THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARI. Black murder yictim's family support police

TWO miles from the place where Stephen Lawrence died, a far more thorough investigation has begun into the suspicious death of another young black man.

Detectives have confirmed that they are treating as mur-der the death of Sheldon Bobb. a 21-year-old lifeguard, who was found dying from head in-juries outside his house in Lewisham, southeast London.

within 40 minutes of the alsale being raised on Sunday afternoon, police had sealed off the scene and were conducting house-to-house inquiries. They have not ruled out a racial attack and say that they are keeping an "open mind" about possible motives.

Kerry Runacre, 19, the moth-



dying outside his home

police were "doing a lot" They are really trying this time," she said. "Sheldon had loads of black, white and Asian friends. He was just a nice, friendly person. We don't er of one of Mr Bobb's two chil-dren, said that she thought the Everyone gets on." Mr Bobb's

family yesterday joined Detec-tive Chief Inspector Chris Horne, who is leading the investigation, at Shooters Hill police station, on the road where Stephen Lawrence was Mr Bobb's mother, Glynis Brewster, 43, said: "Sheldon

was a loving son and as a person he was very passionate about justice, so if anybody knows anything at all it is real-ly important to be brave or concerned enough to share what you know so that he can have some justice for himself."

Mr Horne said that he believed the attack was carried out with a blunt instrument, but said that no weapon, witnesses or suspects had yet been found. He said that Mr Bobb was "popular", had no known enemies and no crimi-

Neighbours called an ambu-



Mr Bobb's sister, Sherry-Ann, and his mother, Glynis Brewster. "He was passionate about justice," Mrs Brewster said

lance upon finding Mr Bobb, and hospital staff contacted police after becoming suspicious about his head injury and body bruising. An autopsy found that he died from shock and bleeding, and that his injuries were not consistent with a fall or car accident. Mr Horne,

acutely aware of the timing of the inquiry, explained in detail police actions during the first days of the investigation and confirmed that he had spoken to Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, the racial task force and intelligence ex-

perts about trying to match the

attack to other crimes in the racially mixed area. He said that Mr Bobb was

found at 2.45pm on Sunday. and that the hospital alerted police at 3.06pm. Police arrived at the scene about 3.23pm, sealed it off and began which continued yesterday. There were 20 officers on the case, with "all the full facilities of any murder inquiry", he said. Asked if she was happy with the response, Mrs Brewster said: "It is early days."

No charges over death at private prison

By Richard Ford HOME CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN officers at a privately run jail will not be prosecuted for manslaughter over the death of a black prisoner. The Crown Prosecution Service said last night there was no re-alistic prospect of a conviction.

Alton Manning, 33, a prisoner at Blakenhurst, near Redditch, died in 1995 after being put in a headlock during a struggle when officers re-moved him from his cell. Last year an inquest jury returned a unanimous verdict that he was unlawfully killed at the prison, run by United King-

dom Detention Services. He was on remand accused of malicious wounding and illegal possession of a firearm. The seven officers were suspended after the inquest verdict and will remain away from duty until a Prison Serv-

ice inquiry is completed. Raju Bhatt, solicitor for Mr Manning's family, said that a formal complaint had been lodged with West Mercia police about the conduct of the investigation into the death.

Any minister guilty of leak will be sacked

BY ROLAND WATSON AND MICHAEL HARVEY

A. minister found to be responsible for leaking the Stephen Lawrence report will be immediately sacked, Downing Street said yesterday. The Prime Minister would not countenance a minister doing that," Mr Blair's official

Downing Street gave its warning less than 24 hours after Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, had refused to clear his ministerial team of involvement and failed to say if the culprit would be dismissed if

David Omand, the Home Office Permanent Secretary, has begun his internal inquiry into the affair, which saw an injunction being served on The Sunday Telegraph on Saturday night, and then lift-

kate Hoey, the junior sponsibilities for the Metropolitan Police, contacted Mr Omand's office yesterday to inform him that she had not seen a copy of the report.

Paul Boateng, the Minister of State at the Home Office, who, with a select band of senior civil servants in the department, did receive one of the few copies, yesterday avoided

Euston station in London for the launch of a helpline for runaways, he was asked what he would be telling Mr Omand. He smiled and made

Mr Omand is also believed to have been told that Lord Williams of Mostyn, the other Minister of State in the Home

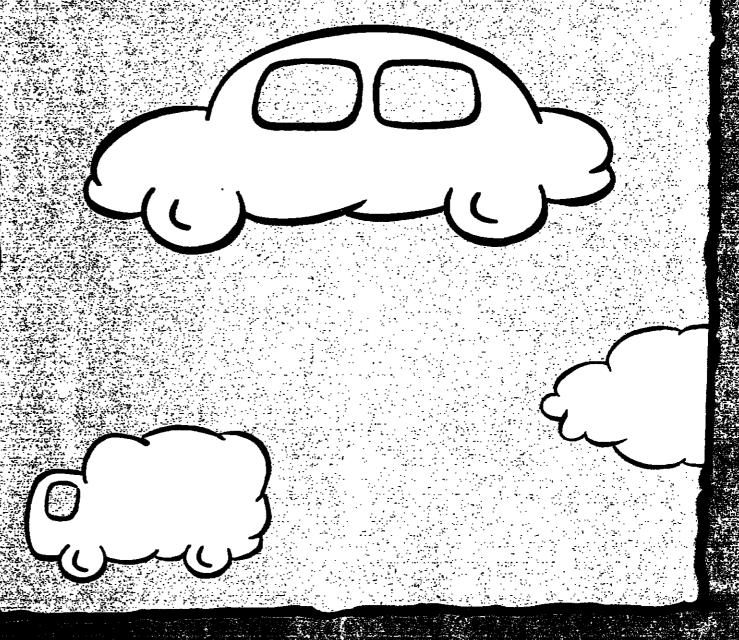
Office, did not receive a copy. Paddy Ashdown, the Liber al Democrat leader, said that the issues raised by the report,

which is officially published today, are wide-ranging. The report will accuse the Metropolitan Police of "institutional racism. Mr Ashdown said that racism was endemic in Britain, and not confined to institutions such

He said that it would be "a great mistake" if the report was seen as highlighting problems that were exclusively problems for the police. "Racism exists in every part of our society," he said in a speech to mark the Commission for Racial Equality's 'leadership

challenge". 'Stephen Lawrence died, at least in part, because we have not been sufficiently vigilant

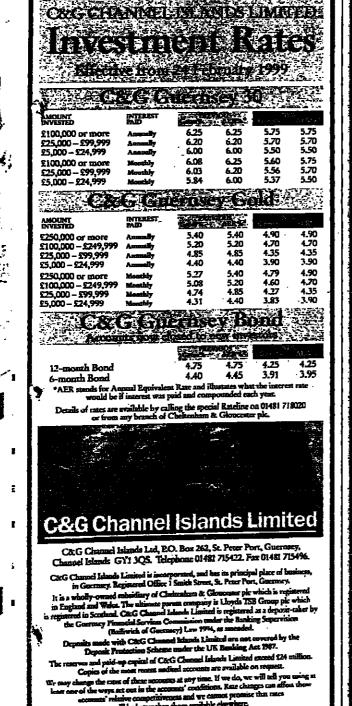
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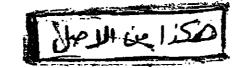


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LOWER EMISSIONS FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT





Daughter 'left sick mother on floor for week'

By Simon de Bruxelles

A WOMAN who allegedly left her mother lying on the floor for a week after she collapsed yesterday pleaded not guilty to her manslaughter.

Benita Pearce, 33, was said to have made no attempt to get help for her housebound mother Isabella, 62, with whom she lived in St Austell. Cornwall.

Instead of calling a doctor. she covered her mother with a duvet and went to work as though nothing was amiss. Truro Crown Court was told. By the time she summoned medical help, her mother was in abject squalor and uncon-scious. She died two days after being admitted to hospital.

Roderick Denyer, QC. for the prosecution, said that Isabella Pearce had been forced to give up her job as a store detective because she had rheumatoid arthritis. After she became housebound her daughter took over most of the household chores and continued to work as a supermarket sales assistant.

Mr Denyer said: "On Monday, October 13, 1997, she found her mother lying on the floor in the sitting room. She



Pearce: denies charge of manslaughter

did not pick her mother up and she certainly did not call for assistance. Benita Pearce carried on going to work and made little or no attempt to look after her mother when she got home, other than to give her an occasional drink of

"Her mother was incontinent but at no stage was she taken to the toilet or any effort made to clean her up. The Crown's case is that if her mother had been dealt with. whatever the reason for her being on the floor, she would not have died " Miss Pearce made

an appointment for Stephen Mather, her mother's GP, to make a house call but showed no sense of urgency. When he arrived the Monday after the fall he was shocked by the state of his patient.

He told the jury: "Mrs Pearce was deeply unconscious, propped up in the hallway. She was covered with a heavily soiled duvet and, in my judgment, was in immediare need of hospitalisation." Mrs Pearce was taken to hos-

pital at Truro and died two days later from blood poisoning caused by a perforated After her arrest, Miss Pearce told police that she had thought her mother would get

"led up" with lying on the floor and get up of her own accord. Detective Constable Steve Osborne said that Miss Pearce said in a taped interview: "She could be very awkward. She won't get ready on time when I am taking her out and sometimes she doesn't make it to the loo in the morning. At night she has started turning on all the lights. I was worried about her but she was insistent that she was OK'



The Taylor family in 1991, with Nicholas third from left at the back. His parents said that he may have been seeking a thrill when he hanged himself

By Helen Johnstone

THE father of the Eton pupil who hanged himself in his col-lege room had been held hostage by the Iragis in Kuwait during the Gulf War, it emerged yesterday.

Malcolm Taylor, from Esher. Surrey. who ran an agricultural greenhouse business, was held captive when war broke out in 1991 after being captured while on a business trip. His son Nicholas, 15. who was a member of BaldFamily say Eton boy did not want to die

wins Bec house, was found hanged in his bedroom on Monday after he failed to apnear for breakfast.

Yesterday Mr Taylor rejected suggestions that his son stead suggesting that he may have been experimenting. Nichoias had been on an assisted place at Eton; his father's business declined as a result of his captivity.

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the family's anguish while he was held hostage. She said the children "became very quiet and developed nervous ties and things. We were under enormous pressure because

we had no income at all." Yesterday. Mr and Mrs Taylor caring for their three other children, appealed for infor-mation that would shed light

on the death. Mr Taylor rejected any suggestion that his son had been suicidal because of bullying at Eton. He added that Nicholas had been very close to his older brother, and had there been any suggestion of involvement with drugs, Jamie, who is 16, would have known about it. The parents told the London Evening Standard that they thought Nicholas might have

been experimenting with thrill-seeking of some kind. Mr Taylor said that Nicholas had been very happy and well-adjusted. Mrs Taylor had spoken to him on Sunday and he had been delighted to have been offered skiing holiwas st wsecre

Fir. M. led

k dance

days by two friends.
Mr Taylor disclosed, however, that Nicholas would worry when his father's work took him away from home. "He was a very sensitive, thoughtful kid. He would worry about when I went away on my travels for work. I was just back last week."

James Thompson, senior lecturer in psychology at Univ-ersity College London, and an expert in reactions to have age-taking, said that been withdrawn and developing strange behaviour were understandable in a family when a loved-one had been taken hostage. If this persisted, specialist help was generally required. "If a child is coming up to GCSEs they could be under even more pressure. They could become very distressed.

Talk about feelings, suicidal men told

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Samaritans and GPs are from Aids, 24 from drug abuse to work together to try to curb the rapidly growing suicide

rate among young men. Suicide among men in their teens and twenties has risen hy 80 per cent since the start of the 1980s and is second to road

accidents as a cause of death in the age group. In 1996, the last year for which there are full figures. there were 280 deaths from sui-

cide among men in the 15 to 24

age group compared with five

and 173 from cancer.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of problems young men face and to encourage them to talk about their feelings. Posters will urge those with emotional problems to seek help from their doctors.

Simon Armson, chief executive of The Samaritans, said: We must give young men the time and space they need to talk openly about despairing and suicidal feelings.



The trial continues.

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SUICELLA DIST

ONE of Britain's leading criminal psychologists told a court yesterday how he suffered a campaign of harassment from his former secretary, who threatened to destroy his career. Professor David Canter, S.,said at Liverpool Crown Court that his tormentor made dozens of "frightening" teledozens of "frightening" tele-

phone calls Over 18 months, Gillian Hartshorne, 50, made increas-ingly abusive calls accusing the academic of an adulterous affair with a young research assistant, he said. Mrs Hart-ashorne claimed she had been forced out of her job to make way for the woman, and made up to 20 telephone calls to Prolessor Canter's home each night angrily blaming him for being sacked, losing her home and having to have her cat put down. She told him repeatedly he would be responsible when

she killed herself. Professor Canter, head of the Centre for Investigative Psychology at Liverpool Uni-versity, said that the messages left on his answering machine were "very disturbing."

Criminal expert tells court of 'frightening'

I was stalked

by secretary,

calls and suicide threats, reports

Russell Jenkins

on occasions, very fearful that she would follow through with the various threats that are contained within those calls." he said. "There are threats to take her own life. She seems to be implying she is going to get at me, attack me in some

Mrs Hartshorne, a divorcee of Great Sutton, Wirral, Merseyside, faces three charges of under the Protection from Harassment Act. She denies two charges of causing fear of vio-lence to Professor Canter and a similar charge relating to Samantha Hodge, a research stu-

John Philpotts, for the prosecution, said that Hartshorne



Mrs Hartshorne blamed Professor Canter for being sacked

Lady driver, 81, led police a dance

THE 81-year-old mother of Lord Huntingfield has been ordered to return to driving school after leading police officers on a 15-mile car chase.

The Dowager Lady Huntinglield remained oblivious to attempts to pull her over with strobe lights, indicators and a floodlight, a court was told. She repeatedly swerved across the Al4 in Suffolk, thinking the police car was attempting to pass her on its way to an accident. When the police pulled

alongside and tried to direct her into a layby, she thought

that they were waving cheerful-ly at her. Finally the officers overtook and blocked her

Lady Huntingfield, of Cam-bridge, who is the widow of the 6th Baron of Huntingfield, admitted dangerous driving at Cambridge Magistrates' Court for 12 months. She was fined £56 and ordered to undergo an extended retest

" I kept on trying to get out of the way," she said. "I sup-pose they think that I was mad as a coot."



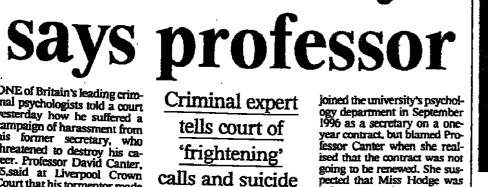
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being groomed to take over her duties. her duties.

Mr Philipotts said: "Mrs Hartshorne began a campaign of harassment against Professor Canter ... There were threats to ruin his career and threats to destroy him."

Professor Canter, who pionagard the use of psychology.

neered the use of psychology in identifying criminals and has helped police with investi-gations, taped scores of the messages that Mrs Hart-shorne left him between November 1996 and March last year. Mrs Hartshorne wept as they were played to the court. The trial continues.





Joan Cooper, marking her 106th birthday, and her lifelong friend Margaret Reed: they died within six days of each other

Friends 'died rather than leave home'

By Peter Gleeson

TWO retired doctors lost the will to live after being told that the Red Cross residential home they had founded 50 years ago was to close, relatives said yesterday. Joan Cooper, 106, and Mar-garet Reed, 98, died within six days of each other after several weeks in which they are said to have refused to eat anything but toast and water. The women spent £2,000 on legal fees trying to stop the closure of the

one month before the place was to

Cambridge, where they became residents 16 years ago. Dr Reed died in hospital on February 12, a few days after breaking her hip in a fall. Dr Cooper died six days later at Meadowcroft. The Red Cross is closing the home at the end of next month because it can-not find enough residents and cannot meet health and safety rules. Dr Reed's niece, Jinx Nolan, said: "I don't think it's a coincidence that they died

close. They gave up." A long-time friend of the doctors, Dr Elizabeth Shoenberg, said: "They undoubtedly willed themselves to die. Margaret said to me three weeks before she died

that they were not going to move her.
She said. "I've always got a way out."
The doctors, neither of whom married, had been lifelong friends and pioneering GPs who specialised in treating women and children. In 1949, they helped to found the 14-room care home for the elderly under a 90-year

lease from Cambridge University. Sev en years ago, Dr Cooper was awarded a Red Cross medal for her work for the aged. Two elderly residents remain at Meadowcroft and they will be transferred when it closes.

Dorothy Quayle, director for the Red Cross, said the closure had been decided two years ago: "It was no longer financially viable but there are a lot of issues, including health and safety. I'm so sad it has come to this because both doctors had wonderful lives.

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Local poll backs big council tax rise

By Mark Henderson

council tax by more than twice the maximum recommended by the Government after winning the approval of voters in a local referendum.

Householders in Milton Keynes will pay 9.8 per cent more council tax next year after supporting the unitary authority's spending plans in a telephone and postal ballot. Almost 70 per cent voted for the 9.8 per cent rise or an even steeper rise of 15 per cent. Only 31 per cent supported a lower rise of 5 per cent.
The turnout of 44.7 per cent

dwarfed the 26 per cent at the last local elections. The 66.647 who voted made the poll the largest local consultation in

Milton Keynes is one of a number of councils to ignore guidance from John Prescott. the Deputy Prime Minister. that council tax should not rise. by more than 4.5 per cent. Several Home Counties authorities are proposing double-figure increases, including neighbouring Buckinghamshire with

Although Mr Prescott has said he will not flinch from punishing profligate councils. it would be difficult for him to cap Milton Keynes as the Prime Minister has said that



wiison: saig the vote delivered a clear verdict

A LABOUR council is to raise the sees local referendums as part of the future of local government. Councils seeking big tax rises ought to seek a direct mundate from their residents, Society pamphlet last year.

Hilary Armstrong, Local Government Minister, said that the Government wanted to make it easier for councils to hold local referendums. "We intend to legislate to put powers to hold referendums

on a firmer footing," she said. Milton Keynes Council and the Electoral Reform Society, which ran the ballot, will be compiling a report and holding a Local Government Association seminar about the vote.

Kevin Wilson, the council leader, said: "We are proud of our innovation and the extent of the turnout. The people of Milton Keynes are used to innovation and they have

delivered a clear verdict."

He said that Alan Meale, the Environment Minister. had "saluted" their plans and that the Government would be wrong to cap in defiance of

The referendum proved that local voters were prepared to pay more to preserve key services, Mr Wilson said. Many council tax -payers had complained before the poll that the votes of those who did not pay. such as students and the unemployed, could force through a big increase but such fears proved wide of the mark.

While about 15 per cent of the residents, less than the national average, get a council tax rebate or pay nothing, 32 per cent of those eligible to

vote supported large rises.

Opposition councillors said that the £70,000 spent on the referendum was a waste of money and had obtained a sourious mandate for a proposal that would otherwise have been voted inrough by lors at no extra cost.



They're off: Jackie Ballard's constituents at Taunton racecourse decry her views on hunting but admit that she is a "rather good MP"

Outsider in the Lib Dem race could surprise the favourites

ackie Ballard would appear from her curricu-Jum vitae to embody all things Liberal Democrat. The MP for Taunton is a former lecturer, social worker, and council leader who studied psychology at the London School of Economics. She is pro-European Union and believes there should be a royal

commission on drug abuse. Whatever the image, the reality of this potential candidate to succeed Paddy Ashdown as party leader is more paradoxical.

Mrs Ballard, 46. opposes hunting with a passion, yet in 1997 took from the Tories a constituency stuffed with followers of the hounds. She was recruited to the Liberal Party in 1985 by Mr Ashdown himself, yet has vocally opposed James Landale meets the blunt-speaking MP likely to be the only woman contender to succeed Paddy Ashdown

ertheless backs positive discrimination to get more women into politics. She is on a diet - "three stone down, three to go" - and is a vegetarian who used to sit on the usually carnivorous Com-

mons catering committee. The common thread is a decisiveness and adherence to principle. As one colleague put it: "Jackie may look cuddly, but she has sharp edges."
In her own typically blunt words, she has "balls".

At Taunton races the locals in their tweeds and trilbies privately decried her views on hunting but respected the courage of her convictions. She is an egalitarian who nev- MP," they admitted. Like all

the potential leadership candidates, Mrs Ballard has made no firm declaration of her intentions. Away in Mexico when Mr Ashdown announced that he was to retire in the summer, she was greeted on her return with calls to stand. "I was overwhelmed by the range of support," she says. She is giving the matter

serious consideration. Were she to stand, she insists, it would be no token ges-ture to gain women in the party more prominence, nor to out a marker down for the next leadership election. "I wouldn't stand for anything unless it was to win. I would thing to say: I wouldn't do it just to put up a good show.

"I have been underestimated in the past and people have lived to regret it."
On the central issue of

whether Lib Dem co-operation with Labour should go beyond constitutional matters, her stance is simple she opposes it. In November she was one of four on the party's federal executive to vote against. Co-operation should only reach into other areas once the constitutional prog-ramme is complete when

there is proportional representation at Westminster.

"If we are too closely tied in with the Government on anything other than constitutional issues, we risk being less effective in opposing them and getting our message across. don't want people to be confused by the differences between the Liberal Democrats and Labour. I don't think we got elected round here by be-ing wishy-washy or middle of

rs Ballard, a party spokesman on local government, health would be the only female candidate - in a field of otherwise rather grey men — to lead a party keen to see more women in its senior ranks. She is one of three female MPs in the par-

ty's 46-strong team. As president of the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors, and a former town hall leader in Somerset, she is well known to the party's local government base. She is popular among the apparatchiks, topping the poll last autumn for the federal executive.

Last year she blocked Mr

Ashdown's plan to make it party policy that neighbour-hood trusts should take control of schools from local authorities. She failed to persuade the party to support plans to ensure at least half of all constituencies had women

on their candidate shortlists. Mrs Ballard suggests that the type of leader the party needs now "is someone who will articulate the difference between us and Labour but also adopt a more collegiate leadership — less a one-man band". Were she leader, policy would not change, but there would be more emphasis on redistribution of wealth, fighting injustice and

protecting the environment. These have been Mrs Ballard's concerns since she was a girl. Born in Scotland to a was brought up in Wales, a scholarship girl among the more well-off pupils at a Monmouth boarding school, where she was a self-confessed troublemaker. The young Jacqueline Mackenzie's favourite book was Zola's Germinal: the vivid portrayal of poverty and injustice stays

with her today. Her marriage to Derek Bal-lard ended in 1989. Their daughter, 19, is a photography student. For relaxation, the MP listens to Celtic rock music and swims daily.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MPs urge speed cut on rural roads

nebels nebels intout Speed limits on country roads should be cut to 40mph to reduce the number of fatal acci-

dents, MPs said yesterday,
Fifty MPs signed a Commons motion calling for an
end to 60mph limits. Some campaigners are also pressing for 20mph zones in villages and the creation of "quiet lanes" on which cyclists, pedestrians and horse-riders would

have priority over cars. Of the 3,599 road deaths last year, 1,938 occurred on minor roads, almost all of which are in the countryside. Ministers are reviewing speed restrictions, but are nervous about imposing low speed limits in remote areas where effective enforcement would stretch police resources.

Midnight Monet ...

The Royal Academy of Arts will open overnight on Satur-day, April 17, to cope with public demand on the last weekend of the Monet in the 20th Century exhibition. A record 210,000 visitors have already

£17,000 jersey

The red jersey worn by Roger Hunt when he raised the World Cup in 1966 sold for £17.250. Hunt had swapped his England shirt with his West German opposite number. Gordon Moushino, 44, who was at the final. bought the jersey at Sotheby's.

Runaway help

A free advice line has been set up for the 40,000 children who run away from home each year. The London-based service, run by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, h is open from 5pm to 11pm on 0800 096 0096. It is hoped that

Tourist record

A record 25.7 million foreign tourists visited Britain last year, spending £12.74 billion. The number from the US and Canada rose 12 per cent, compen-sating for a 1 per cent fall in those from the Continent, said the National Office of Statistics.

Laid to rest

A "silent" road surface costing M65 between Burnley and Huncoat, Lancashire, to protect owls. Conservationists said that owls hunted by listening to the movement of prey and traffic noise was driving them away.

Wild at art

A painting by an elephant fetched £500 at a Sotheby's auction. The work, described as abstract, was painted by an elephant at an animal hospital in Thailand after it was given a brush by a visiting artist. The proceeds will go to charity.

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Strike may shut **British Library**

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

BOOK delivery staff at the at the same time. The manage-British Library have voted for a strike which would force the closure of its reading rooms. only 18 months after the muchdelayed opening.
About 100 of the 120 staff

who work in the storerooms of the £511 million building supported the strike plan, which is in protest at pay, a new rota system and working condi-tions which they say are un-healthy. The library will be closed from March I for at least a week unless an agreement is reached.

Staff say that the basement storerooms, four floors below ground, have health and safery problems: they have complained about noise, extremes of temperature, lack of natural light and ladders with missing steps which they have to climb to reach high shelves.

'There is also concern about people getting migraines." said one worker, who claimed that an internal health and safety report found 37 recommendations for improvement. Staff are also unhappy with plans to reorganise their work-

ing hours, which will intro-

duce a series of shifts and ro-

tas so that not all are working

ment wants to rotate staff between the building's levels so that they do not spend their entire day on the lowest floors. The changes would also allow the library to extend the read-ing rooms' opening hours, which are fewer than on the former site in Bloomsbury.

Workers say that 45 book deliverers will lose £1.000 from their £13,900 salary because of the changes: 64 will remain at that rate.

John Sheldon, joint general secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union. which represents 250,000 civil servants including the library's clerical and managerial staff, said: "The plans will damage the quality of services to library users and could put the collection at risk."

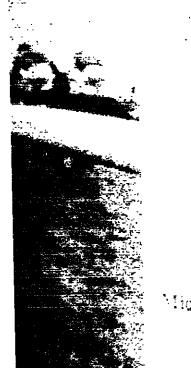
The library said that the pay of book delivery staff, who are not trained professional librarians, could rise with overtime to £15,500 and that more than half the staff would be upgraded to higher salaries.

Brian Lang, director of theBritish Library, said: "I do hope we can resolve this. We would have no choice but to close.



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Jeans left to rebels without a clue

female singer award at this year's Brits, said that "Levi's

jackets are great", but that the

legs of the jeans "are either too

short or too long".

Stephen Marks, chairman of Group plc, which includes the French Connection label,

squeezed into a pair of tight,

dark-blue jeans, which he

wore with a smart jacket to

Farhi's show - but he admit-

ted that he was no trendsener. "Combat trousers are getting stronger and stronger — we are selling more of these legs than ever, in stretch and

with zips," Mr Marks said.

The All Saints singer Na-

band preferred outsized trousers: "We

like to feel comfortable and wear

what we can dance

and travel in.

Nicole [Appleton]

and I spent our

teenage years in the States and so

we are both very

fashion." But Jere-

my Clarkson, the 38-year-old Top Gear presenter,

influenced American skate

talie Appleton said that her

JEANS, once the uniform of youth, are now a badge of mid-dle-age — and the big shots at London Fashion Week show that among the truly fashionable, denim is dead.

As Levi Strauss announced plans to close half its US factories and lay off 6,000 workers because of a sales slump, the only jeans-wearers at the shows were overweight techies ar of forty-something men with banding heads and bulging

The trousers popularised in the 1950s by icons such as James Dean are now slipping down the backsides of the middle-aged. Karl Templer, a

29-year-old stylist week included Cal-Nicole Farhi and Hugo Boss, said: "Jeans are just standard now. Your parents wear them and they are not rebellious. They are deeply conserva-Marian Scrutton, a co-

owner of the West Jeans: abandoned in London restaufavour of "combats" rants Circus and

sidered an example of the sort of man who thinks that youth Avenue, who prepared food A the fashion crowd, decided that her staff at the makeshift can be found in a pair of denrestaurant in front of the Natuims, said: "I will continue to ral History Museum would wear them until I die because wear blue combat pants in-stead of jeans. They are trendy, practical and you can I'd look idiotic in combats. "Jeans are for middle-aged people now and the job of the put things in pockets. And young is to rebel against their they are more comfortable parents' fashions in the same

than jeans," she said. way that I wore jeans because my father wore slacks." Nicole Farhi, whose collection was shown yesterday, has Anna Wintour, the Editor of used fabrics such as wool American Vogue, said: "Jean sprinkled with flecks of iron Paul Gaultier used denim and wood instead of denim. with feathers in his collection "We are pushing a softer look this year. Jeans are not better or worse than other trousers. in sportswear this season. We have only one jean," said They are still a classic."

Jean machine, page 19







What ho! Style is so jolly English, after all



TV's Wooster, Hugh Laurie plus fours and Argyll knits

as international, but Englishness is rapidly emerging as a theme of London Fashion Week. Paul Smith, one of Britain's most successful designers. kicked off a packed day yesterday in the sedate surroundings of The Basil Street Hotel with clothes inspired by the likes of the Bloomsbury Set and Bertie Wooster.

Modish fashion editors are wearing nvion trousers and Prada sports-inspired footwear this season, but at Paul Smith the sporting choice was tweeds the colour of grouse, delicate chinoiserie that wound its way round the hems, pockets and belts of silk tunic dresses, and slim-cut aubergine sheepskins layered over trouser suits. Bertie Wooster was evident in the elongated Loden-coloured plus-fours **Lisa Armstrong** reports on the traditional inspiration at London Fashion Week

and Argyll knits that were reworked as dresses; the Bloomsbury Set was evident in the painted velvets that were inspired by the artist Sonia Delaunay. Smith, who made his name with men's clothes, is now finding his stride with womenswear; this was an appealing collection with plenty of

wearable pieces. Nicole Farhi also had plenty of desirable pieces, including sturdy looking leather boots and blonde sheepskins, which had been combed to look like Mongolian trim. Farhi, who is set to open a huge store in Manhattan later this spring, is slowly but surely carving a bigger international profile for

herself. The Oscar-nominated actress Cate Blanchett was at the show in one of those blonde sheepskins, and enthused about the collection to all and sundry afterwards. Of course, it helps that she is currently rehearsing Plenty, the haunting play by Farhi's hus-

band David Hare. Deborah Milner, a graduate of the Royal College of Art, did not do wearable in her first catwalk collection yes-terday. The silver dresses and skirts that twisted round the body, framing it with triangles that jutted out from

demic exercise in technique - of which Milner, 34, has plenty. Using "strictly synthetic" fabrics and some bronze that she melted on her gas fire in Battersea, she painted an ethereal picture. That she can do more accessible

pieces has been proved by the popular-ity of her made-to-measure wedding gowns, as worn by the likes of Annabel Heseltine. This was her chance to show her experimental side - and she "Is that open seam a styling tic or ac-

cidental?" asked one observer of a shark's fin dress. Vidal Sassoon, a sponsor of London Fashion Week, was less equivocal in his praise. "It's Frank Gerhey for clothes," he said. Grey may come and go, but architecture never falls out of fashion.

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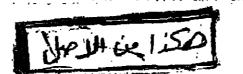
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Hague accuses 'foolish' Blair of ditching pound

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE accused Tony Blair of using the National Changeover Plan to bounce Britain into joining a single European currency as MPs debated the Prime Minister's

The Tory leader said it was "a long list of clichés and verbiage" accompanied by little information. He mocked Mr Blair for an article "My love for the Pound" which he wrote for The Sun before the general

"Hasn't it been a remarkably short journey from this love of the pound to the plan you announced today to adopt the euro and abolish the pound?" he asked.

Mr Hague said: "While [Mr Blair] trumpets his love for the pound, it is his love for the euro which is the love that dare not speak its name."

He told the Prime Minister: "Isn't it the case that you have today committed the country to a course of action that is unnecessary, expensive and timeconsuming, and for which the British voters have never given their consent?"

He added: "Isn't it foolish to embark on a changeover plan without the faintest idea how the necessary convergence of the economies is to be

Mr Hague declared: "In-

stead of giving choice, your National Changeover Plan is part of a national handover plan. to hand over the economic and political freedoms of this country."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said the Government had "crossed the Rubicon". "I greatly welcome that, even though the Government has crossed the Rubicon by the tiniest millimetre, and even though the Government

THE COMMONS

crossed the Rubicon." He insisted: "Unless the Government is prepared to come forward now and argue the case for the euro, then it risks this decision, the most important facing the UK, being lost by stealth. Now the Government is going to have to defend its own position - something it

Kenneth Clarke, the former Tory Chancellor, told the Prime Minister: "I welcome the marked change of tone which today's statement represents. I particularly welcome the fact that you have reached agreement with the representatives of the majority of British business on the practical steps that are now to be taken to give some reality to your poli-cy of 'prepare and decide'."

He added: "Would you undertake that you will from now on continue to put your mouth where you actually think our money ought to be?"

Giles Radice (Lab, Durham N), chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, urged: "The time has now come for a great national debate to inform the British people about the euro and the British Government must lead that debate."

Sir Edward Heath, the former Tory Prime Minister. told Mr Blair: "You have been absolutely right in everything

It is a handover plan, to hand over the economic and political freedoms of this country?

> which you have said this afternoon. I welcome that." He urged the Prime Minister to carry out the preparations as

> "speedily as possible". Mocking his front bench's "pseudo arguments" against the euro, he insisted: "The fact

throughout the world in its history. There is no single market in the world which has more than one currency and that is our position today - we cannot carry on successfully in a single market if we go for multiple currencies."

Tony Benn (Lab. Chesterfield), the former Cabinet Minister, asked Mr Blair: "Will you make clear that when the nformation published by the Government goes out, every elector is told that if Britain is a member of the single currency, they will lose the right to elect or to remove on polling day those who make the economic decisions that affect our

Michael Heseltine (C, Henley), the former Deputy Prime Minister, said the changeover plan would be welcomed" and marked a "step forward in the Government's intention to join the single currency". He also urged Mr Blair to create and lead an all-party group pushing for entry to the euro.

lan Taylor (C. Esher and Walton), a former Tory minister, also welcomed the plan and added: "Anyone who opposes the national changeover plan must in fact wish not to have a referendum because the referendum can only come if the British people have pre-

Dennis Skinner (Lab. Bolsover) spoke of the failures of Europe's common agricultural and fisheries warned Mr Blair: "Beware of those carrying out experiments

modified currencies." Taylor Strangford) warned that the euro was politically driven and would lead to a United States of Europe. "The Prime Minister's statement could be the beginning of the end of the



Tony Blair announcing the details of the National Changeover Plan for joining the European single currency in the House of Commons yesterday

'Not a change of policy, but change of gear'

THIS is an edited version of the Prime Minister's statement to the Commons:

"On 27 October, 1997 the Chancellor of the Exchequer said he would publish details of how, should it choose to do so. Britain could join the euro. Today we publish an outline of the National Changeover Plan as a basis for consultation. "[The Chancellor| said that in princi-

ple the Government was in favour of Britain joining a successful single currency. And he set out the conditions necessary to satisfy our national economic interest.

"It is conditional. It is not inevitable. Both intention and conditions are genuine. This is the right course for the country, to resolve this issue for the British national interest, the future of our people and their well-being. And it is that national interest that will algenetically ways come first.

"I do not dismiss the constitutional or political issues. They are real. Monetary union is a big step of integration. But so was the Single European Act. And the EU itself.

good for British jobs and British indus-ment to prepare. Each department

BLAIR'S STATEMENT

British influence. I believe it is right for Britain to overcome these constitutional and political arguments and the fears behind them. "For the very reason of the sensitivi-

ty of these arguments, we have also said clearly: the Government can recommend. But the people will decide in a referendum." Mr Blair continued: "What we an-

nounce today, therefore, is not a change of policy. It is a change of gear. "The euro is a reality. It exists. Elev-

en out of 15 other EU members are in it. It represents 20 per cent of world income, as big as the US. It will be the currency of 290 million people.

Fifty per cent of our trade now is

with the eurozone. The launch of the euro means already that an increasing number of UK firms are starting to use the euro. not just big business like British Steel or Ford or Philips or ICI and

Mr Blair added: "The public sector "And if joining a single currency is will give a clear sign of its commit-

euro preparations. Where computer systems are being upgraded, all departments will build in euro compatibility where that represents value for money. In the case of the DSS, the Inland Revenue and Customs, the scale and complexity of their computer systems

make advance preparations critical. "They may need to spend some money prior to a referendum to make their IT systems euro-compatible ... such expenditure ... will amount to some tens of millions of pounds spread over

a number of years. "Overall, we believe it should be possible to move in four months from a Government decision to a referendum; in 24-30 months from a positive referendum result to the introduction of notes and coins: and a further six months before sterling notes and coins are withdrawn.

This means that the whole process from a positive referendum result to the withdrawal of sterling could be completed in around three years, considerably faster than the period required for the first wave of EMU par-

Mr Blair went on: "It is worth sum-

between the UK and countries within the euro-zone: flexibility to adapt to change in the UK and in continental Europe: the impact on investment and the UK financial services industry; and whether joining the single currency would be good for employment.

Three points should be emphasised. The first is that economic convergence must be not momentary but, as far as we can accurately foresee, sur-tainable. We cannot say that yet.

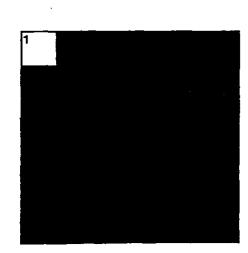
The second secon

The second point is that these are early days for the euro itself. It is sensible to see how it settles down and how the ECB steers a path consistent with both strong economic discipline and the avoidance of deflation. "And third, it will take some time to

make a clear judgment about whether the direction of economic reform in Europe will enable us to meet the tests, particulatly on flexibility and jobs. The single currency alone won't

make Europe prosperous. The single currency plus fundamental reform in labour, capital and product markets and in our welfare systems, can do so. "Madam Speaker, I commend this

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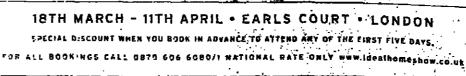
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INSPIRATION IT'S ABOUT KNOWING WHERE TO LOOK









change of &



Tony Blair aims to speed up

the process so that the UK can

prepare more quickly than

first-wave entrants managed.

the next election, the document

gives business the green light

speed up its preparations. A cision could be made as ear-

as late 2001, with Britain

possibly joining economic and

to enter the euro for a referen-

could push through a referen-

dum Bill - which was done

within four months for the

dum to be held.

monetary union by 2003.

Blair is now planning on the basis of the cure succeeding and Britain joining. The formal policy may still be "prepare and decide", but, in practice, it is "prepare and enter provided, or rather when, economic conditions are right". And the latter conditions are largely in the eye of the beholder, though Mr Blair underlined continuing British worries over the need for further reform in European labour, capital and product mar-kets — "a new social model for a new European reality".

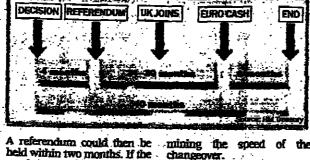
pointed out. Mr Blair sig-nalled a major step forward.

It was more than

what Mr B**lai**r called "a change of

haps the crossing of the Rubicon

Yet there is now no doubt about where either Mr Blair or William Hague stands on the central political question facing Britain. The caveats are still there, reflecting the natural desire of any leader not to box himself in. But the battle lines are clear. Mr Hague underlined his fundamental opposition in principle to joining a single currency, echoing Hugh Gaitskell's fa-mous, or infamous, reference in 1962 to a thousand years of history. But Tory divisions have seldom been greater with Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, David Curry and lan Taylor sitting together like a party within a party. Mr Hague was right that



Some high-street banks

could take up to three years to

prepare while the Inland Reve-

mue and Customs and Excise

would need to prepare for about 12 months.

But it would be retailers, util-

ities, public-sector services

and organisations involved in producing and distributing

euro notes and coins which

would dictate when the curren-

cy could be introduced. The

Royal Mint would require up

held within two months. If the result was positive it would be put to Parhament in a comprehensive Bill, which could take

While Treasury sources were making clear that no deci-sion would be made till after a year to get through. Before the UK could join, the European Commission and the European Central Bank would need to report to the European Council on whether the UK had met convergence criteria.

The Government's blue-The document is imprecise print for change suggests that over when Britain would techwould take four months nically join the single currenfrom the time the Cabinet de-cided the conditions were right cy. It argues that the timing would depend on whether different sectors of the economy were ready, particularly the banks and revenue depart-This would depend on how quickly business managers

It argues that the amount of pre-planning and practical

confirm it is when, not if create a step-by-step process whereby membership is seen message. Sometimes . what matters is who

as inevitable in the referen-

says something and how they say it, as much as what they dum because the euro has become an accepted part of life. That will be hard for the Tosay. The real significance of yesterday's announcement about the National Changeories to fight. Yesterday's plan is intended ver Plan was that it was made by Tony Blair - and the careto convince business of the senousness of government preparations. Whitehall departfully-crafted formal statement revealed less than the tone of his replies to MPs' questions. ments will spend "tens of mil-As Paddy Ashdown and othlions" which will be authorer prominent pro-Europeans ised in the next few months.

Telltale signs

has still not named a target date, so a degree of uncertainty re-mains. While Mr Blair shifted policy, several big questions remain

Governor of the Bank of England, told MPs yesterday morning monetary policy is not aimed at assisting entry into the euro. Talk of shado ing the curo is officially denied: instead, the aim is to "demonstrate delivering stability, including the exchange rate". The intention to pursue convergence will have to be more explicit.

econd, Mr Blair said: We want to keep open the option of making a decision early in the next Parliament to join." The Blair camp claims that this could mean retaining the current formal approach in an election campaign. But Robin Cook is not alone in believing that the Government will have to declare its hand over a central is-

sue of the campaign.
Third, and most important, will the Government take the lead in what is in effect a paign? Mr Ashdown argued that leadership by stealth cannot continue. As Mr Heseltine urged, Mr Blair has to take a lead in what will be a crossparty campaign. Yesterday, he picked up the euro stand-ard, even if he is not yet wav-

PREMALE STREET ABLE

to 30 months to provide suffi-"Provided detailed planning

is taken forward now, this period could be completed within 24 to 30 months," the document suggests. It adds that the final period to the day when sterling is withdrawn from circulation would be up to six months, in line with advice from the Business Advisory Group — but could be as short as two.

The paper admits that further work with the banks and revenue departments would be necessary for a more precise timetable.

It suggests that a lot can be could take between 12 to 18 learned from the timetable of months and financial markets the first wave of single-currency entrants. It points out that member countries decided to go ahead in May 1998 and it will take a further 50 months before the euro is adopted fully. Britain could do it at least ten months quicker, the Government says.

Leading article, page 21



All change for the pound: shoppers and traders in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, tried out the euro last November

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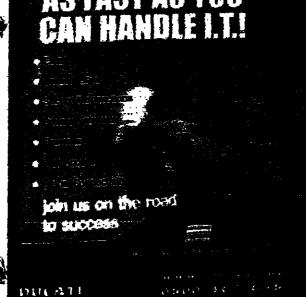
back on the road, quicker than advoce else

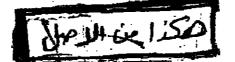


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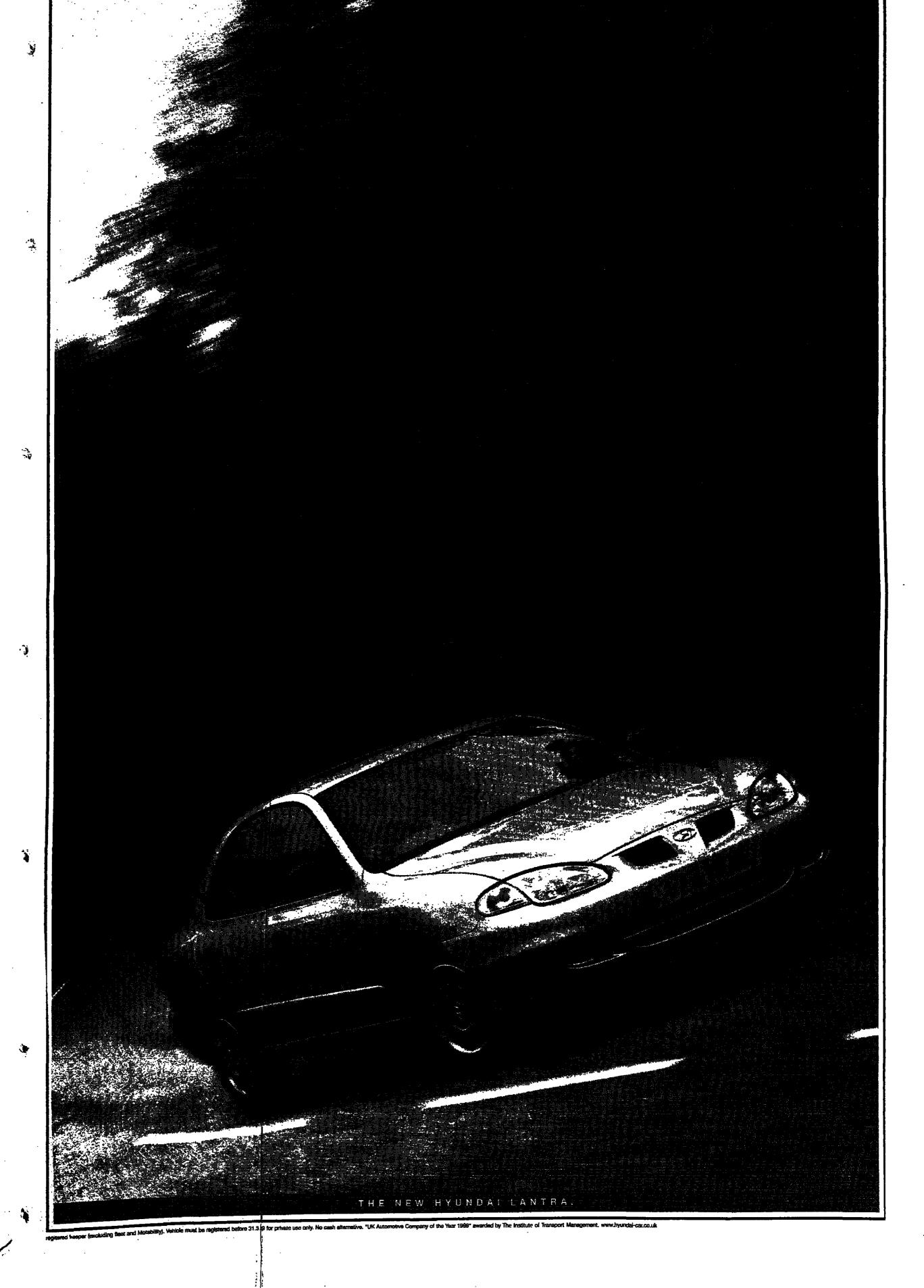
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24 1999

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Serb death shows reality of ceasefire

lage that does not even appear on the map. Yet, while interna-tional mediators in Rambouillet agonised over how best to window-dress deadlock to the waiting world, the war visited its 800 inhabitants.

The skirmish there was barely significant, even by the standards of Kosovo's low-intensity conflict. Doubtless the handful of casualties would have been little more than statistics on an official release were it not for the presence of the media.

Kosovo, technically, slum-bers under a ceasefire that is supposed to last for the duration of Rambouillet's negotiations. On Monday morning, however, a Serb offensive west of Vucitrn, about 21 miles north of Pristina, displaced more than 4,000 refugees in

four hours of fighting.
The same night, Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas came down from the snow-covered slopes and fired on Serb houses in Bukos, two miles to the south. One Serb civilian was

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Peace talks give

Kosovo village

a taste of war, Anthony Loyd

in Bukos writes

killed and two others seriously wounded. Early yesterday, the mixed Serb-Albanian village filled with Serb police who escorted a team of investigators to the dead man's house while a small Yugoslav Army unit, backed by a tank and mortar crew, took up positions on the slopes to the south.

The KLA held positions to the west, north and east. They dropped a mortar round into the yard of the dead man's house as the Serb investigators entered. It wounded five policemen and a press photo-

The police called up army re-



inforcements and in the lull that preceded their arrival, we drove to the KLA line at the northern edge of the village. The fighters were tense and uncommunicative, but as convinced of the justice of their

cause as their Serb opponents. The Serbs had their tank, two anti-aircraft Pragas, and dozens of infantrymen. More to the point, as a journalist had already been wounded in their company, they had dropped their usual hostility vards the media, and invited the press to accompany

them on their mission. The infantry moved forward

scended in about two seconds. The sky and fields resounded with whistles, buzzes, cracks and thumps. Everyone appeared to be rolling around in the snow and mud. Our Land Rover picked its moment to slide gently off the track, sink-ing up to its axles in half-fro-

We cursed and sweated and pushed, to no avail, as the bedam continued. About 20 minutes later the shooting had stopped and I was smoking a Lucky Strike with a Serb officer. "So who is guilty today then, comrade, the Albanians or us?" he asked.

Around him, troops were regrouping in the good-natured mood that follows victory. The KLA, true to form, had fallen away from the slopes.

Bukos, in its entry to war, a tiny place on an average day, had its anonymity lifted by one dead and several wounded Serbs, together with an un-known number of guerrilla casualties. And that was during a ceasefire.



A Serb woman, whose husband was killedoutside their house in Bukos, carries her belongings, including a rifle and shogun, from the building yesterday

Escape route mined

Turke!

death the Octoor

Pristina: Yugoslav Army engi-neers have placed explosives on a key bridge on the main highway connecting Kosovo's capital, Pristina, with the Macedonian border, according to a monitor with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe yesterday. He said he witnessed about

20 army engineers burying a command cable of the sort that would be used to detonate explosive charges. The cable ran from a hut that was being fortified on the Pristing side of the bridge to the span itself.

An American diplomat with long experience in Yugoslavia said he understood the bridge was mined. "We have been reliably informed that the bridge is mined and could be blown at any time," he said.

A Western diplomat in the

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia said: "The Yugoslav Army wouldn't be a match for Nato but they would use every means to frustrate an attack, including blowing up bridges and tunnels that Nato forces would want to use to enter Kosovo."

The bridge wired for detonation would be the main escape

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British troops on hold during talks stalemate

By Tom Walker in Rambouillet and Michael Evans, defence editor

THE Rambouillet peace talks on Kosovo passed the final deadline without a deal yesterday, with neither Albanians nor Serbs signing anything.

Contact Group ministers claimed, however, that there had been an historic breakthrough. A new constitution for Kosovo appeared to have been agreed, but Belgrade was still a long way from accepting a Nato force on its ter-

It was agreed that the talks should continue on Monday, March 15, at the Normandy town of Evreux. James Rubin, the US State Department would give the Albanians time to consult their people, while the Serbs would have to bring themselves to accept that international troops were an inevitable consequence of

any peace deal. Last night, the planned deployment of 2,000 British troops in Skopje, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, was postponed, following the announcement in Rambouillet. Troops from the proposed leading British armoured battle group, based on the King's Royal Hussars. had been due to arrive in the region by the end of this week to prepare for immediate deployment into Kosovo once a peace deal was signed.

However, with the inconclusive result of the talks, Operation Agricola, the British codename for the planned Kosovo mission, has been "put on hold". Only hours before the announcement that another meeting had been fixed, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that the 2,000 British troops would be arriving in the Greek port of Salonika and in Skopje by the end of the week.

However, after hasty meetings at the Ministry of Defence, the deployments were shelved. The troops involved, all based at Osnabrück and Münster in northern Germany, will continue to make preparations for a Kosovo mission, but without any firm guarantee that approval will be given. The first batch of tanks and armoured combat vehicles is due to arrive at Salonika on board the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ferry. Sea Centurion, tomorrow.

The reputation of Madel-eine Albright the US Secretary of State, has taken a beating over the past few days, as her efforts to secure an Albanian signature to at least haif the peace plan were consistently thwarted by Hashim Thaci. the 29-year-old Kosovo Liberation Army leader. However, she said last night. "We have decisively broken the stalemate that hung over kosovo Airstrikes were also off the

agenda. Mrs Albright spoke only of "disincentive" towards Serb security forces. and warned the KLA hot to provoke any incidents while a settlement was possible

Diplomatic sources in Belgrade said that a new United Nations force was being considered to implement a peace nlan. Some even suggested that the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) could be asked to head a force, even though it

Robin Cook, the Freign Secretary, lost his temper after a string of questions about the peace force and said british



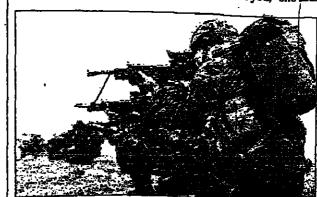
British Nato troops train in the snow in Skopje

troops would only be commi ted to Kosovo under Nao leadership. The Americals said they would also only cortribute troops if they were Nato-led.

Mr Cook said: "We wan a tried and trusted command structure." He added that he hoped Russian troops would join, making the force mere palatable to Belgrade.

Hubert Védrine, the Freich Foreign Minister, denied that the Albanians had persuated the Rambouillet mediator to include a referendum in the constitution, which would frovide a clear route to independence after three years.

Mrs Albright denied the Kosovo Albanians had ben cheated by Rambouillet. Do not despair, support thos of your leaders who have upported peace, and America will stand with you," she aid.



Firing practice continues for the Nato Extraction Force in Macedonia yesterday as talks stall

References

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Turkey seeks death penalty for Ocalan

IN ISTANBUL

JUST over a week after his capture by Turkish special forces in Nairobi, Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish separatist leader, yesterday made his first appearance before Turkish judges on charges of treason.

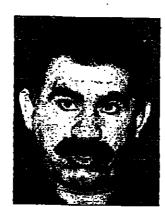
Turkish prosecutors said

they would seek the death penalty, which has not been applied in Turkey since 1984. The hearing, on the prison island of Imrali, in the Sea of Marmara, was closed to the press and public. No date was set for the trial, which will be conduct-ed by a special session of the Ankara State Security Court. However, officials said it

would almost certainly begin

next month in the run-up to the Turkish general election in April. A high security courtroom is being constructed on the island which officials said was "along the lines of courtrooms in Italy for Mafia trials", with a special bullet-proof dock for Mr Ocalan.

Yesterday's hearing on Im-rali was attended by Osman Baydemir, one of fifteen law-



Ocalan: press banned from court appearance

tional observers admitted".

"monitors" to be present.

Greece was a "rogue state"

and that if it continued its "ille-

gal actions" Turkey retained

the right "to take necessary

Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish

Prime Minister, said Greece

had been "playing with fire".

Athens: Costas Simitis, the

Greek Prime Minister, yester-

day called for a parliamentary investigation into the still-

vague circumstances in which

Mr Ocalan was abducted by

Turkey from what was be-

lieved to be Greek diplomatic

"We must separate our inter-

nal criticisms from national

policy," Mr Simitis said after a

Cabinet meeting called to dis-

cuss rapidly worsening Greek-Turkish relations in the after-

math of the capture.

shelter (John Carr writes).

precautions in self defence".

Rights Association who have volunteered to defend Mr Ocalan. Dutch and Italian lawyers claiming to represent the Kurdish leader have been refused entry to Turkey. Onlookers spat and yelled abuse at Mr Baydemir as he boarded a boat for imrali. He expressed concern that Mr Ocalan's in-terrogation had been conducted without a lawyer present.

Details of the interrogation have been released by the newspaper Hurriyet, which yesterday said that Mr Ocalan

Columnist sparks anti-Times tirade

urged their readers yesterday to "inundate" The Times with faxes, letters and e-mail to protest against a column in which Simon Jenkins, the former Edttor of The Times, ironically urged the West to "bomb Turkey" (Richard Owen writes).

"Many Turks appear not to have understood that Mr Jenkins meant not that we should bomb Turkey but exactly the opposite," one Western diplomat said. "It seems that irony does not translate."

Sabah and Hurriyet both published the telephone, fax and e-mail numbers of The Times. In his column last Friday Mr Jenkins wrote that the

British and US Governments were too ready to use bombs. "Bomb Turkey now," he began. "Flatten Ankara. Tomahawk the Bosphorus. If we can bomb Serbia for the Kosovans and bomb President Saddam Hussein for the Iraqi Kurds, we can surely bomb Turkey for their mountain brothers.

Sabah did not explain that Mr Jenkins was condemning such attitudes, or quote his observation that where "Britain used to send humanitarian sends explosives".

Simon Jenkins, page 20

his questioners he was "full of remorse". "Please don't hang me," it quoted him as saying. "I will tell you everything." Mr Ocalan, held responsi-NAT Ocalam, held responsi-ble by Turkey for the deaths of 30,000 people during the 15-year Kindish insurgency, is said to suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure as well as a heart complaint. On Monday European Union foreign ministers called for "fair and correct treatment" of Mr Ocalan and an "open trial according to the rule of law before an independent court, with access to legal counsel of his choice and with interna-The Turkish Foreign Ministry said that "the EU's idea of sending observers is not acceptable". But officials added that the court might allow According to Hurriyet, Mr Ocalan has admitted that his guerrillas fighting against Turkish rule in southeastern Turkey had received "rockets and other weapons" from Greece. Mr Ocalan also reportedly said that Greece had given training at Kurdish Workers' Party camps on Greek soil "for years" and had provided him with a passport in the name of a Greek Cypriot. President Demirel said that

Hezbollah kills three Israelis

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday demanded that Syria put an end to Hezbollah attacks on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. The call came hours after three members of an Israeli commando unit were killed in a gun battle

and five more injured. The attack was the most serious in Lebanon this year and the biggest loss of Israeli life there since September 1997, when 12 Israeli commandos were killed. It has placed Israch's future in Lebanon high attacks it has the power to do on the agenda of all parties so. We expect them to curtail on the agenda of all parties for the Israeli general election on May 17.

The shootout took place near the village of Meidoun, just north of the buffer zone that Israel has occupied in southern Lebanon since 1985, as the Israelis were on their way to attack Hezbollah (Party of God) targets and were ambushed. Mr Netanyahu, who had a friend among the injured, said: "It is clear that if Syria wanted to stop these aggression against Israel." Israel retaliated with artil-

lery shells and its warplanes fired four missiles after helicopters had strafed the area. A statement from Hezbollah, which is armed and financed by Iran with the connivance of Syria, said its fighters intercepted the commandos as they were trying to cross into unoccupied leba-non. It said the guerrillas had

suffered no casualties.

CIA accused of inciting coup in Iraq

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN spies planted on a United Nations inspection team in Iraq may have had a hand in a failed military rebellion against Saddam Hussein. according to Scott Ritter, the

former UN weapons monitor. The former US Marine intelligence officer who ran the UN's most sensitive missions inside Iraq before resigning in disgust at Western policy says in a book that the CIA began sending agents on UN inspections at the start of 1992, a year after the end of the Gulf War. The CIA role reached a cli-

max with the presence of nine 'CIA paramilitary covert operatives" on a UN inspection in June 1996 which coincided with a coup attempt by mempublican Guard units that the UN team was investigating.

Iraqi opposition sources said the coup attempt was planned by a CIA-backed group known as the Iraqi Nanional Accord, which smugeled in CIA communications equipment from Jordan, Iraqi intelligence arrested two Republican Guard officers involved and contacted the CIA on its own radio to announce that it had uncovered the plot.

The revelations are contained in galleys of Mr Ritter's forthcoming book. Endgame, leaked to The New York Times in an apparent response to a Pentagon demand that the author submit the manuscript for security clearance.

Iraq has always complained that the UN Special Commission (Unscom), set up after the war to eliminate Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction. was packed with American spies. The iraqi Government once even expelled all the American inspectors after de-nouncing Mr Ritter as a spy, a charge he denies. US officials continue to insist, however, that Unscom acted as an independent technical agency in pursuit of goals set by the UN Security Council.

In the book Mr Ritter says that he and a CIA official, referred to as "Moe Dobbs". worked together "to plan the operational and intelligence support for the largest and most complex inspections undertaken by Unscom."

The CIA sent its largest contingent on the June 1996 mission to search compounds where elite troops were suspected of hiding evidence of Iraq's clandestine programmes to build chemical and biological weaponry. A stand-off developed when Iraq blocked the inspection, bringing swift condemnation from the Security Council. That very month, Iraqi dissidents staged an unsuccessful coup attempt.
There was no proof of Do-

Beirut: The US could be implicated in the killing of Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Sadiq al-Sader, a top Shia Muslim cleric in Iraq, it was claimed. Muhammad al-Sahhaf, Iraq's Foreign Minister, said the US was trying to finance insurrection in his country. (AFP)

bbs' involvement, but there was a strong set of coincidences," Mr Ritter writes.

☐ Fresh attacks: In a third consecutive day of attacks yesterday. American FISE planes dropped 2,000lb "bunker buster" bombs on a military site in northern Iraq after they were targeted by anti-aircraft fire, the Pentagon said. In a second incident, other FI5s attacked a multiple-launch rocket system near the city of Mosul. Baghdad said that one Iraqi was injured. (Reuters)



Ritter: resigned UN job in disgust over policy

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US governors back Bush for president

IN AN unusually early show of support, at least half of America's Republican state governors are ready to endorse the White House ambi-

tions of George W. Bush.
Their backing emerged in
Washington yesterday as
word spread on the political grapevine that Mr Bush, Governor of Texas and son of the former President, was prepar-ing to take his first official step towards running for President. He is expected to announce the formation of an exploratory committee within three weeks. At the same time, Pete Wil-

son, the former Governor of California, confirmed that he would not be entering the Republican presidential primaries, having concluded that Mr Bush has gained so much momentum that his early lead in several key polls is insur-mountable. With Mr Bush already competing for the attention of big donors, Mr Wilson realised he would be unable to raise the \$25 million (£15.4 million) needed to run a credible

Mr Bush has conceded that he is "warming to the task" of trying to win back the White House that his father lost to Bill Clinton in 1992. Tim McGough, a Massachusetts politician, said that Mr Bush told him of his plans for the exploratory committee in a call last week and said: "I have a feeling of calm inside myself."

Earlier concerns that Mr Bush might not run out of consideration for the impact on his wife and teenage twin daughters are fading. They are now expected to support his candidacy.

On the crucial money front, Mr Bush has begun privately assembling a team to raise \$25 million with phone calls and Top Republicans lend support as favourite warms to the task, Ian **Brodie** writes

meetings in Austin, the Texas state capital, and Washington. He has seen investment bankers from California, East Coast property tycoons and wealthy Texas oil men. Contributors to past campaigns of the elder Bush are being recruited for his son.

Opinion polls show Mr Bush to be the leading contender for the Republican nomina-tion, but nipping at his heels is Elizabeth Dole, wife of Bob Dole who lost to Mr Clinton in 1996. She has resigned as president of the American Red Cross to give serious thought Both Mr Bush and Mrs

Dole beat Al Gore, the likely Democratic candidate, in poll-sters' mythical match-ups. The support for Mr Bush by as many as 16 of America's 31 Republican governors was seen as unprecedented for a non-incumbent White House hopeful who has yet to declare officially. Their ranks grew during the three-day winter meeting of the nation's governors in

"Nobody wants to be left be-

LINKS

hind," said John Rowland, Governor of Connecticut. Marc Ricicot, Governor of Montana, said: "They like him, they trust him and they think he can win." Frank Keating. Governor of Oklahoma, said: "He's done an excellent job as Governor. He appeals to a cross-section of the people. And I really think Texas represents the rest of the country."

Mr Bush's popularity in Texas was proved last November when he was re-elected in a landslide. He enjoys the nick-name of "Dubbya" from his middle initial, spoken in a Texan twang. He has already developed a thick skin for questions about his personal life, especially his wilder, younger days. He talks openly about his inability to handle alcohol which he swore off 12 years ago when he was 40. He refuses to answer questions about possible drug use in his youth.

Mr Bush had a chance to size up the White House for the first time since his father departed during a dinner that Mr Clinton gave for the governors. He also clashed with the President during a discussion by opposing an Administration plan to tie federal education aid to school performance. While agreeing with Mr Clinton's goals for better schools and teachers, Mr Bush demanded flexibility in the way funds from Washington are spent.
The federal Government

should be a limited partner. If they feel like sending money to the states, fine, but don't tell us how to run things," he said.

Fellow governors backing Mr Bush include moderates and conservatives, including his brother Jeb who is Governor of Florida. George Bush Sr, living in retirement in Houston, is urging his son to run.



the task of trying to win back the White House his father lost to Bill Clinton

WORLD IN BRIEF

Parliament puts **Cresson to test**

Brussels: The future of Edith Cresson, the embattled European Union Commissioner, appeared more uncertain last night after she submitted to a humiliating public interrogation by the European Parliament and insisted that she bore no guilt for alleged fraud and nepotism committed under her stewardship (Charles Bremner writes).

The most embarrassing moment for the former French Prime Minister came when Michael Tappin, a British Labour MEP, distributed a file on her employment of René Berthelot, a dentist friend from her home town of Charellerault. where she was a long-serving mayor. Mr Tappin called on her to resign for "creating the atmosphere of cronyism".

Anwar names attacker

right, Malaysia's former Deputy Prime Minister, directly implicated a former police chief as the man who beat him in custody, an inquiry heard (David Watts writes). It was the first time that Tan Sri Rahim Noor had been blamed for the beating which gave Mr Anwar a black eye and caused a world outcry.



Eritrea under attack

Addis Ababa: The war in the Horn of Africa worsened with that its forces had destroyed nine Ethiopian tanks and captured two, while repelling the western front assault. (AFP)

Tortured men backed

Harare: A magistrate here has ruled that two journalists tortured by military interrogators last month should be allowed to visit a London clinic specialising in therapy for torture victims (Jan Raath writes). The decision came after lawyers for Mark Chavunduka, 37, editor of the Standard, and Ray Choto, 33, a reporter, submitted medical evidence of their injuries. But state lawyers immediately prevented their departure for London with a High Court challenge to the ruling.

Victim left arm behind

Marseilles: A motorcyclist, suffering from shock, left part of an arm at the scene of an accident, but doctors reattached it after police found the limb. Olivier Faure, 21, who was hit by a car in southern France, was taken home by another driver without realising his left forearm had been severed. His mother alerted emergency workers while M Fauré was taken to hospital. Police found the arm dozens of yards from the accident scene and it was reattached in a 12-hour operation. (AP)

Briton held hostage

Bogotá: A Briton is among 16 foreigners being held hostage by Colombian rebels, the head of the country's anti-kidnapping unit said. The others are a Japanese, two French, four Italians, three Spaniards, one Algerian, three Venezuelans and a Chilean. Several of the foreigners, being held by three different groups, were seized at random at roadblocks which the rebels routinely set up. (AFP)

Ukraine leader held



Moscow: Pavio Lazarenko, left, a former Prime Minister of Ukraine arrested last week for trying to enter the United States without the correct documents, is in custody awaiting a decision by immigration authorities (Anna Blundy writes). Ukraine has sought his extradition over the theft of more than £1.2 mil-

'Pregnant' baby saved

Hanoi: A four-month-old Vietnamese girl with a severely distended stomach and vomiting was found to contain the developing foetuses of her two siblings. Tran Dong A. a surgeon at Ho Chi Minh City's Pediatric II Hospital, said the focuses had been removed in a three-hour operation. He added that the baby was thin but in a stable condition. (Reuters)

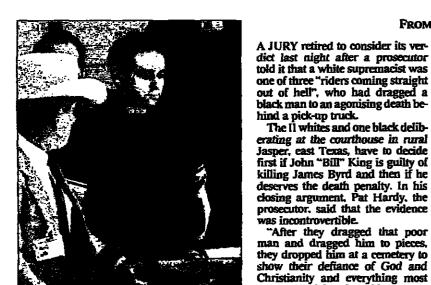
Texas awaits verdict on 'rider from hell'

people stand for," he said.

Under Texas law, Mr King

would receive a lethal injection,

rather than a life sentence, only if



John "Bill" King is escorted from court after giving evidence earlier this week

victim while committing another crime. Prosecutors have been pushing hard to show that Mr Byrd was being kidnapped when the murder

In a bid to save his client from execution if convicted of murder, Brack Jones argued for the defence that the chaining and dragging was the method of the killing, not inten-

tional kidnapping.

Before concluding its case, the prosecution provided some of the most gruesome evidence of the trial when it called a pathologist who said that he believed Mr Byrd was alive and writhing in pain as he was dragged by his chained ankles along a rough road for more than two miles behind the truck. He was decapitated when he hit a concrete culvert in the road.

"He was attempting to keep his head off of the pavement. He was conscious," said Tommy Brown who performed the autopsy on Mr Byrd a day after the murder.

The defence in the case consisted of just three witnesses, including a fellow inmate of Mr King's during an earlier spell in prison who had applied some of the defendant's many tattoos and said they were not racist but "looked cool, that's all".

Mr King, 24, is accused of being the ringleader who wanted to kill to gain publicity for his new racist gang when he and his flatmates, Lawrence Brewer, 31, and Shawn Berry, 24, picked up Mr Byrd as he was hitchhiking home in the early

They are alleged to have taken him to a back road and given him a severe beating with various tools before shackling him with the 24ft logging chain for his final journey.

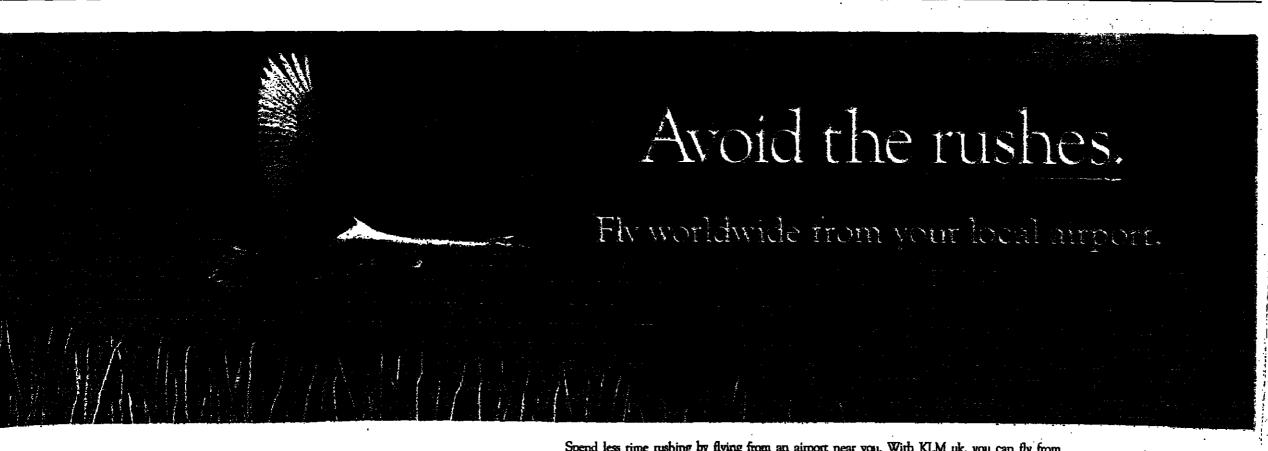
The other two defendants face trial later this year.

US blocks satellite sale to Beijing

BY IAN BRODLE

THE Clinton Administration yesterday blocked the sale of an advanced communications satellite to China. citing national security. The satellite, cost-ing \$450 million (£280 million), was to have provided a mobile telephone petwork stretching over much of Asia.

Washington refused export licences to Hughes Electronics because of concerns about the network's probable value to the Chinese military. There were also worries at the Pentagon that the technology needed to place the satellite in orbit would help the Chinese to make their fleet of intercontinental ballistic missiles more



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How mad Max took me for a ride

Despite a nasty fall from a Colting horse, Mary Ann Sieghart still believes in the right to take risks

MONTO IN BRIEF

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The second of the

ary Ann Sieghart is away. Five simple words at the end of my op-ed slot for the past two Fridays: so bland, yet so pregnant with possibility. Away on a tropical beach, wondering whether to swim to the reef or drink another rum punch? Away at a policywonkers' conference, discussing the future of constitutional reform? I had suggested "unwell" instead of "away", despite the Jeffrey Bernard semotations. For 1 was lying in cell with a thumping headache and sporadic dizzy spells, wishing the world would shrivel up and die. The pain was self-inflicted. And,

as with Mr Bernard, it was caused by an excess of spirits. Not downed by me, though. The spirits belonged to a bolting horse, from which I fell, on a road, at top speed, on to my head. The result is what the neurologist calls "very signifi-cant concussion" (rather a Freudian diagnosis, I thought), not dissimilar to the sort he sees in carcrash victims. There are cuts to my head through my riding hat, and the brain scan shows bruising between the skull and the brain. The only cures are rest ("with a capital R", he insists) and patience.

The trouble is that, as for many in my profession, patience is alien to me. If I were patient, I would not be a journalist on a daily newspaper: I would be writing a long and worthy book, due out in 2002. I would be happy to bury myself in a library, knowing that the fruits of my labour would one day be apparent. As it is, I can only just wait until tomorrow before the fruits of my labour land on the doormat.

Impatience is the hack's bedfellow — not, as for the past two weeks, a pile of newspapers and a laptop computer. And yes, I know, writing is not Rest, even though I keep stopping for a brain breather. But, as the neurologist admitted, journalists are not good at Rest; they always insist on going back to work long before they should. So, in lieu of political analysis, which really would make my head hurt to write. I thought it would be easier to tell the story of the accident.

I had long promised our two



A young rider on the road: "Believe me, it is not fun to fall on your head. But riding can be exciting and highly enjoyable, on the right horse in the right circumstances"

daughters that, when they were old enough, they could learn to ride. Having found a stables that would teach them, I realised that their reg-ular Sunday morning lesson would be a chance for me to return to the pursuit and have a bracing hack around the countryside while they learnt to rise to the trot.

The first week was great. I was given a young and lively horse, felt comfortable and confident and had an exhilarating canter out with two other riders. One of my companions, on an enormous three-dayeventer called Max, had a more hair-raising time. Headstrong and dead strong. Max would not be stopped, and when she found that he was galloping straight for a fivebar gate, showing no signs of deceleration, she had to wheel him round into a deep ploughed field to slow him down and save her skin. So when, the following week, I was told that I was riding Max, I expressed some alarm. "But he's im-

possible to stop!" I pointed out.



Mary Ann Sieghart riding in Morocco: "I would hate to banish all risk from my life"

Even though I am a reasonably experienced horsewoman, I am not brilliant. And I had a flash of every rider's nightmare - a horse that bolts with you. But the ridingschool owner was adamant. Max would be fine. She had just taken

him out herself and he would be too tired to misbehave.

I wish. From the start he was bad-tempered, laying his ears back and snapping at the neighbouring horse. Then, when my companion went in front and started trotting.

Max tried to surge ahead at a canter, oblivious to my pull on the reins. I stopped him relatively easily after we had a proper run along the side of a field. But it was on the way home that he nearly killed me.

I later learnt that the person who

had taken me out and was leading the way had, perhaps unwittingly, broken the stable's cardinal rule: not to trot or canter within striking distance of home. A horse that is keen to get back is all too tempted to bolt. And that is exactly what Max did. An explosion of power and he was off, first along the grass verge to the country lane, then thundering down the Tarmac village road, downhill at a flat-out gallop.

There was no open field into which I could turn him, just hazards such as parked cars and fence posts. So I did what you should: sat back and tugged at the reins, but all he did was to accelerate beneath me. In desperation. I velled "STOP!" at the top of my voice. At the bottom of the hill, I knew, was a main road with fast traffic. Just round the corner, before we hit the main road, might be a car coming towards us. How would this end?

I have a very slight recollection of him skidding on a left-hand bend. And the next thing I knew, I was in

Winchester Hospital, throwing up. It was three hours later.

My husband and two small daughters, walking back from the stables, had seen a woman holding two large horses and, round the bend, a body spreadeagled on the road. A villager who had heard a loud thud looked outside and called an ambulance, but had been understandably reluctant to move me. My children were deeply shocked when they realised that the body was mine, but at least my husband is a trained paramedic, so he took charge and carried me into a cottage to wait for the ambulance that

would take me to casualty.

The hospital kept me in overnight for observation, with a nurse waking me now and then to shine a torch into my pupils and ask what day of the week it was. Fortunately, the X-ray showed no skull fracture.

But these things take more than a day in a darkened room to cure. In a month, I am told, I shall be back to 90 per cent capacity; it will be another two to three months before I am completely normal again. Meanwhile, the prescription is for more sleep (about two hours extra a night) and a lot more Rest. And this week I shall probably have another brain scan to see whether the bruising has gone down.

ere I American, I would have sued on the spot. Even in this country, I would probably have a case. But I don't believe in that sort of thing. Litigation in America has got so out of hand that, when we went to a Texan dude ranch for a holiday, we were not allowed to ride faster than a plodding walk lest we fall off and claim our millions. Even the diving board had been removed from the swimming pool. Along with it, fun and excitement have vanished from many an American life.

Believe me, it is not fun to fall on your head. But riding can be exciting and highly enjoyable, on the right horse in the right circumstances. I would hate to banish all risk from my life - as I was intending to tell a Cabinet Office seminar on the subject of risk management the day after the fall. Unfortunately, and ironically, I never made it.

I was also going to tell the audience that adults should be allowed to choose their own balance between risk and reward, and risk and precaution. Luckily, I had taken the precaution of wearing a tightly fitting riding hat (now wrecked) with the chinstrap done up. Had I not, the excuse at the bottom of my column, last week and this, would hardly have been "away". It would, I fear, have been gone for good.

Max is grazed but otherwise fine.

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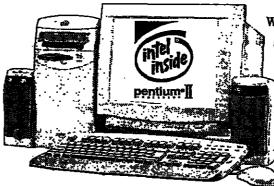
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An image of Uranus, taken from the Voyager II space probe in 1986. Early astronomers believed the planet to be a star

Cows milked in modern

parlours have their ud-

ders and teats sterilised

by iodine antiseptics, and

some of this finds its way

That meat and milk

are the main sources of

iodine could, however, be

a problem to those who

eat neither, as a study car-

ried out in Germany and

published in the British

Journal of Nutrition

shows. Vegans. in partic-

ular, could be at serious

risk of iodine deficiency.

A team from the

Research Institute of Child Nutrition

in Dortmund, Germany, studied six

adult volunteers on different diets.

Dr Thomas Remer and colleagues

into the milk.

The dangers of iodine deficiency

SCIENCE

BRIEFING

Nigel

Hawkes

about to get even longer. Kevin Kilburn, a materials manager for a Manchester plastics company, believes that Dr John Bevis, an 18thcentury astronomer, may have spotted Uranus more than 40

To claim a planet is to grasp immortality. But before Herschel identified it, Uranus slipped through the fingers of John Flamsteed, who saw it six times, James Bradley (twice), Pierre Le Monnier (12 times) and Johann Tobias Mayer. All recorded it as noth-

Le Monnier's is the most inexplicable case, since he saw Uranus eight times in four weeks in December 1768 and January 1769. A planet, if seen more than once, ought to be easily distinguishable from a star because of its movement. But in poor Le Monnier's case, Uranus was near its stationary point when he made his observations.

John Bevis was a keen astronomer with an unlucky streak. He might now be remembered as the discoverer of a planet and the author of one of the finest star atlases of the 18th century, as well as the first man to identify the Crab Nebula. In fact he is forgotten.

Mr Kilburn's rehabilitation of Bevis began one evening in November 1997, when he and two fellow members of the Manchester Astronomical Society, Tony Cross and Michael Oates, were examining a mysterious star atlas in the society's collection. It was old, but hey had no idea what it was. Research convinced them that what they had was a copy of Bevis's star atlas, Urano-

graphia Britannica, which he

compiled from his own obser-

milk, need to take the German study

seriously. He is aware of at least one

vegan in Britain who was found to be

iodine-deficient and prescribed treat-

ment before any damage was done.

But he fears that there may be others.

deficiency remains a serious prob-lem. Even today it is estimated that in

the developing world about 750 mil-lion people suffer from goitre, and 5.7

lodine can be bought in the form of

pills, often derived from seaweed, but

Dr Long complains that they are fre-quently badly labelled and give incor-

rect analyses of iodine content. Some

years ago he persuaded the Ministry

of Agriculture to commission analy-

ses of 60 commercial supplements,

which showed that many were inaccu-

rately labelled. One contained ten

times as much iodine as the label

claimed, which would raise intakes to

million from cretinism.

In other parts of the world, iodine

National Biography records. He practised as a doctor in London but grew dissatisfied

must have been the first to observe the Crab Nebula, later independently discovered by

Charles Messier. Bevis also

discovered the great cornet of

1744, unaware that others had

seen it before him, and his

atlas includes Flamsteed's

1690 observation of Uranus,

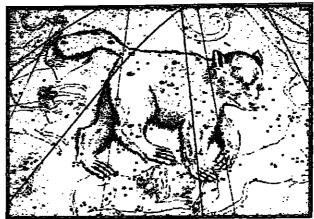
which he believed to be a star.

But Mr Kilburn is chiefly inter-

ested in whether Bevis saw

Uranus independently when

making observations in 1738 of



The Constellation of the Great Bear, from Bevis's atlas

and, in 1738, moved to Stoke Newington, where he set up observatory. Here he worked feverishly, often measuring the transit across the sky of 160 stars in a single night. By 1745 he was ready to pub-

lish an exact view of the heavens in 52 large plates, containing more detail than any previous atlas. But shortly before publication, says Mr Kilburn, fate dealt Bevis a shocking blow. His publisher, John Neale, went bankrupt and the copper plates, ready for the printer, were sequestered by the Court of Chancery.

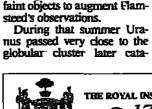
Bevis died in 1771. In 1785, his library came on to the market. It contained three proof copies of the atlas and a lot of loose, first-impression star charts, which were sold to an anonymous buyer and appeared on the market again the following year in bound form as the Atlas Celeste, with no credit to Bevis. It is a copy

1738 would have been less than half a degree from the position of the third, non-existent star. and of magnitude 5.7.

Left of M22 is another star, which could be 26 Sagittarii but is shown as brighter than that star actually is. Could this be Uranus, which in May 1738 was very close by? Small errors in Bevis's recordings position are possible, and the engraver of the plates made occasional errors, too.

So did Bevis discover Uranus? The case is plausible but unproved. The failure of Uranographia Britannica to be published was not, alas, the last of his disappointments. He was not, as he had hoped, appointed Astronomer Royal and so returned to medicine. but his passion for astronomy could not be quenched and it eventually killed him. On November 6, 1771, when observing the Sun's meridian altitude, he turned too quickly from telescope to clock and sustained a fall, from the effects of which he died.

He was, says the Dictionary of National Biography, "of a mild and benevolent disposition", his astronomical work distinguished more by diligence than by precision. Har he had less of one and a little more of the other, he might now be as famous as Herschel.



THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN *ඏ 1799 - 1999* ඁ෨

SCIENTISTS FOR THE NEW CENTURY

On Wednesday March 31, in From Captain Hook to Robocop, Dr Peter Kyberd, from Oxford Orthopaedic Engineering Centre, will discuss how close scientists have come to creating the perfect artificial hand. Are man-machine hybrids like Robocop near to reality, or are they destined to remain in the realms of fiction?

The talk will be introduced by Professor Susan Greenfield, the director of The Royal Institution. There will be the opportunity for questions from the audience.

The lecture, sponsored by Novartis, will be held at 7.30pm at The Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarie Street, London W1X 4BS.

Please book me ticket(s) at £5 and/or ticket(s) @ £3 (concs) for the Scientists for the New Century on March 31:
NAME
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Or, please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex card No:



narily dependent on iodine.

For want of it, a child born

as perfect as any other can descend

into cretinism, physically deformed

and mentally retarded. A more mod-

est deficiency can cause goitre, the

enlargement of the thyroid gland as it

strives to function on inadequate

Today Britain is free from iodine-deficiency diseases, though it

has never been quite clear why.

While many other countries intro-

duced iodine into salt or bread on a

compulsory basis, this was never

done here. lodised salt is available in

Britain but its use has declined. Yet in the past half-century, and especially

since 1960, goitre has disappeared.

The best explanation for this is

milk. Since the 1960s milk has be-

come the main source of iodine in the

dier, followed by meat. The rise of

iodine supplies.

Prime Health

report that even those on non-vegetaran important source of iodine in many countries. Dr Alan Long, a veg-etarian and nutritionist, says that ian diets had a low iodine intake, around 35-40 micrograms a day com-

gists from the Manchester Metropolitan University, published in the Journal of Zool-

ogy. They found that badgers do best if they



DESPITE legislation designed to protect it, the badger is still persecuted. As many as 9,000 badger setts are dug each year, in almost all cases illegally. Many others die on the roads. So it might be assumed that the best bet for a badger would be to choose to live in the most remote place it could find. Not so, according to a study by two biolo-

recommendation in Ger-

many of 200 micrograms

a day. But the vegetarian

volunteer was even lower

- 16 micrograms a day.

This particular person

did not eat fish or sca-

food, a good source of iodine, but did drink

milk. The German study

ties in with work in Swit-

zerland and New Zea-

land, showing declines in

iodine intake, says Dr

Lena Davidsson, of the

Swiss Federal Institute of

Technology in a com-mentary in the same is-

sue of the journal. One reason may

be the decline in salt consumption,

driven by worries over its effects on

blood pressure. lodised salt remains

Badger mystery live in public places, in open country close to roads or public footpaths. The more points of public access, the better - presumably because people who would dig setts or set their dogs on badgers are less likely to do so if they risk being seen.

Paradoxically, the study also shows that badgers do better on the land of farmers

opposed to badger conservation. Explaining this is a bit of a puzzle, but it is possible that such uncooperative landowners are as opposed to trespassers as they are to badg-ers. The researchers' conclusion is clear: "We suggest that existing public access may be benign or even beneficial in areas of high wilful persecution," they say.

Hot spots that can change a locust's brain AN early exposure to



temperatures appears to have permanent effects on the brains of locusts, enabling them to fly in very hot conditions. Those raised in temperate climates and then transferred to a warm desert often have trouble flying, and some of them even die, says Dr Nino Ramirez, of the University of Chicago. But those that have been exposed to a brief

blast at 45C have no trouble. Together with colleagues he investigated why, and they report in the Journal of Physiology that the heat shock has permanent effects.

They exposed 40 locusts to temperatures of 45C for three hours, gave them six to 24 hours to recover, and then compared slices of their brains a very delicate operation, which nobody had done before — with those of locusts who had been kept at room temperature. Tools thinner than a human hair were needed.

They found that potassium out-flow from the brain cells of the heatshocked locusts was greatly reduced. Dr Ramirez suspects that this might reduce the sensitivity of the neurons responsible for movement, enabling the locusts to continue flying in extreme conditions.

Now he is turning his attention to mice to see if their brain cells can also adapt to extreme temperatures. Understanding the protection conferred by heat might ultimately be useful in protecting the brains of stroke patients, he believes

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WIX 4BS Tet: 0171-670 2985 (24 hrs) Fax: 0171-670 2920 Please note that tickets will be posted until March 24 only. Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. If you do not receive your tickets please call 0171-670 2985 to confirm your booking.



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MUNITER M. Limmus? MAHIS

er of

in factor are

A far cry from Jean Machine

Despite his huge success, Tommy Hilfiger craves higher recognition. Interview by Lisa Armstrong





The Hilliger look: the upscale designs for this summer

Il American, a pictorial style tome by Tommy Hilfiger, is speckled with his convivial apercus. On fashion conformists he says: "I was one." On English rock: "It's influenced me totally." On jeans: "They should look and feel faded and comfortable, and be somewhat irreverent, like you don't have a regular job and you don't care."

Hilliger, one senses, wants to be liked, wants to be on first names with the world - witness the name of his hugely successful scent, Tommy.

Occasionally be jeaned, but sometimes in hand-made suits from his favourite London tailors, Anderson & Sheppard, he stands astride a clothing empire about which, one imagines, he cares very much.

Enough, at any rate, for the fashionistas' disinclination to regard him as a serious designer to rankle, even though he says that he has come to terms with "being someone who makes clothes that aren't outrageously expensive and sells

to the young". But, he concedes, he would like to be regarded as "an Important American Designer". This seems unlikely, despite Red Label, a new unscale line of men's and women's clothes,

that he has hopes of seeing at the Oscars. If not, it will be in his store at New Bond Street, London — 16,000 sq ft of Tommy's World — which opened yesterday. He should worry. Tommy Hilfiger Inc turns over \$1.5 billion (£909 million) a year and is giving Ralph Lau-ren a run for his Polo shirts (the latter recently laid off 250 staff, one consequence, according to The New York Times, of Hilfiger's success).

Hilliger, who owns a quarter of the company, is personally valued at around \$100 million (£62 million) — enough to-finance his personal staff of 12: the 22-room clapboard Colefax & Fewlered farmhouse in Greenwich, Connecticut, from where his helicoptered journey into work every day takes 15 mintues; the spread in Mustique; and to see his four children, aged between three and

through private school. His personal life is markedly sane. His wife, Susie, runs her own business selling traditional English-style children's clothes. Her nostalgic style is as far removed from Tommv Hilfiger merchandise as Milly Molly Mandy is from Tank Girl. These contradictions are one of the endearing aspects about Hilfiger. If the label is straightforward in its demo-

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Take a new direction



Tommy Hilliger, the American designer, has a new store, Tommy's World, in New Bond Street, London

more controversial personalities in showbusiness — from Mick Jagger and Michael Jackson to Hugh Grant and Snoop Doggy Dog - are only

part of the story. His offices, above Fifth Avenue, are accessorised with a couple of electric Gibson guitars ("Tommy likes to play," says his PR, "but not so you'd

cratic, youthful American like to hear." J. But they are vision, the man is less clear- also furnished with WASPy cut. The alliances with the sisal matting, weathered leather armchairs, and black and white framed photos.

His earliest ad bore the noto-rious legend: "The four great designers for men are R**** and Trees Harrison." For someone whose fashion expertise at that point comprised a stint as a sales assistant in Jean Machine on the King's Road, London, and a moderately successful jeans line that went into chapter II, this was an enviable display of self-belief.

Those ads were thought up by George Lois, who is a marketing genius. I was a little embarrassed at their tone in the beginning," he says, "but it would have taken years to get

known without them." The latest tactic, of developing an upmarket line to headline the existing ones, is the reverse of normal procedure, which creates an aspirational image before plunging into diffusion markets. But it might well work. Red Label is stuffed with wearable pieces any wannabe rock chick would love.

orn 46 years ago in Elmira, in New York State, Hilfiger was one of nine children of a Catholic watchmaker, and school early (They thought I was dyslexic'). He came to London and returned a year later to put his Jean Ma-

"I found working there boring - it was just piles of blue eans." With his last \$150 he bought 20 pairs of bell-bottoms and opened a boutique entitled People's Place. Five years later he had ten stores and a Porsche 911. By 1977 People's Place was in trouble. "I was hard on myself. I vowed never to fall into sloppy work habits again. Money, after a certain point," he says, "is not what drives me." So what does? "Fear of failure."

no-nonsense father, although he says: "I'm trying hard not to be too hard on my kids." Certainly they are not paraded in public and didn't attend his fashion show in Manhattan last week. They had homework and school the next day." Whatever one thinks of this bid for normality, there is one small chink in Tommy World: while his three sons are happy to have their Dad's name across their chests, his daughter prefers the plainer stuff. "She's not crazy about logos.

It's weird but it's new England

A new Kent estate is being marketed as a perfect English village. But Celia Brayfield is not convinced

'It features

Mondeo

Man and

Mike

Leigh

Woman'

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MAKE THEIR BOOKS YOUR BUSINESS

Today is the last chance for schools to register.

If you have an interesting story to tell about collecting tokens for a local school, ring The Times today on:

ho would buy a house from a man who edges driveway begonias? Or from a woman named Sharon who wears a white hard hat instead of white high heels? The answer is supplied by a BBC documentary that captures Mondeo Man and Mike Leigh Woman buying the houses of their dreams on the new estate at King's Hill, near Maidstone in Kent.

Let's get the language right. It's not a house, it's a home, the developer. Crest Homes, says so. And it's not an estate, it's a village, the super-developers, Rouse Kent Ltd, says so, and points to village features such as a village green and a village golf course. And she's not a Mike Leigh Woman, she calls herself a "millen-nial ruralist", and she's

clear that "like most people who've grown up in iowns and suburbs, I have a feeling that I'd like to be closer to the good things in rural life". But she doesn't want "that cockerel thing waking you up at 3am", and Sharon doesn't want any village-style mud in the show home because that would give buyers the message that Crest Homes doesn't care. This is a subtle docu-

mentary, perhaps too subtle, but a dignified respite from the grotesque junk that now passes for factual TV. The film-makers spent a year recording the building. marketing, sale and occupation of 53 new homes in this ground-breaking, ah, village. We can make up our own minds about the saleswoman who explains how to push buyers into higher mortgages — "If they don't know what they can afford try to steer them in the right direction."

The programme deserves to be archived because it records a piece of England in the process of defining itself. We, the English, are supposed to be having an identity crisis. but nobody has told them on King's Hill, where they're naming streets after the English apple varieties that don't grow in Kent any more.

The show-home designer knows how we see ourselves - school of House & Garden circa 1989, which means chintz-effect curtains with tie-backs, sloping ceilings in the bedrooms, fitted carpets, double doors. The architects were in no doubt ei-

ther, going for diamond-paned leaded-light windows and vernacularstyle brickwork. "People like houses with a front door in the middle and four windows at the front, like children draw." says Sharon. She must be right. Crest Estates aims to sell its villages before they are built and the show home always goes first. They have to budget for the theft of everything pocket-sized in the building, presumably by people who don't know they can afford prices from £125,000 to just under £300,000.

King's Hill is the Utopia of the blingties the latest attempt at some

Nineties, the latest attempt at something we've been trying to get right all this century. Its 650-acre site was once West Malling airfield, and it is 15 miles from the M25, an hour from London and just more than two hours from Paris.

Kent County Council. with a stiff quota of new homes to provide, brought in Rouse Kent, affiliates of an American real estate investment "masterplanned" the site. In order of priority, its vision was of a business park employing 10,000 peo-ple, the golf course, 1,850 homes, schools, shops, a pub. a medical centre. the University of Greenwich. sports grounds and public art.

The masterplan included recycling the airfield concrete, replanting the wild orchids and replacing trees cut down. In 1996 Tony Blair visited to bless King's Hill, which he called "a fantastic development". Now. 550 homes and two public sculptures into the masterplan, it seems fantastic in many senses.

The people who moved in are youngish, upwardly mobile white families who are happy to sign covenants agreeing not to threaten property values by painting their front doors forbidden colours, or flaunting their dustbins.

This is not a village, it is an instant conurbation. Sharon's customers seem classless cultureless and rootless, ready to mortgage their souls for a view of the golf course. King's Hill will shortly be declared a new parish, but there is no church, It's weird, but it is real and it may be the new England.

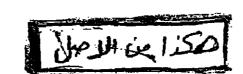
● Living Room, Modern Times. BBC2, Wednesday March 3. 9pm.

THE SECTIMES



ALKER

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN



Darkness visible in Mississippi

The South is another country,

and Faulkner the best guide

to Oxford, Mississippi. from the state capital. Jackson. You can follow the Natchez road, an old Indian trail straight north into the hill country. Or you can take the flat back roads through the battered Delta towns. They used to be synonymous with the blues and with the worst poverty in America, but they have had the edge of their bleakness rubbed off by the cash from new casinos.

Either way, you are likely to be going to this Southern town for only one of two reasons. Either you're visiting "Ole Miss", the University of Mis-sissippi, itself hardly free from the taint of the state's racist history. Or you are drawn by the William Faulkner industry, which has flourished in the town where he lived most of his life.

There is a case not just for thinking Faulkner is one of America's greatest writers, but for actually reading the books. And, incidentally, for visiting Oxford. I say that somewhat defensively, because so many people hold the opposite view with passion. "Some of the sentences are longer than a page" said one of my Washington colleagues incredulously. If I wanted to bother with visiting a shrine to the South, he continued, I would be better off going to Graceland.

But thousands do make the pilgrimage to Oxford. The town was ambivalent about Faulkner during his life. It has been less so since he won the Nobel Prize. and the value of the tourism became obvious: The square around the courthouse, lined with coloured brick and wooden two-storey buildings, is unchanged from his — or from

his writing. At any time of year, it will attract crowds of fans, many from European universities where the study of the Old South has become hugely fashionable.

They take trips out to his grave, to tuck a bottle of whiskey into its grassy sur-round. Or they walk 20 minutes to his white, pillared house, Rowan Oak, to look reverentially at his bed, his spare wooden furniture, his stables, and at the many photographs of a surprisingly small man stroking tail horses. Despite the quietness of Rowan Oak, it was a troubled life. His wife tried to commit suicide on honeymoon; she survived to negotiate a marriage that was an alcoholdrenched battelfield. Faulkner had one daughter, and too

Given the darkness of Faulkner's life and work, there is inevitably something comic about the middle-aged group-ies. Long strangers to Bohemia, they are trying neverthe-less to relive the excitement they felt during their college literature courses. Many of the female pilgrims wear ethnic jewellery at the neck and ears, open-toed leather sandals on their feet, and something shapeless and cotton in between. One fan, in late middle age, appeared to be offering herself in sacrifice. She was wearing a T-shirt inscribed with the famous quotation: "If

a writer has to rob his mother,

many lovers.

he will not hestitate: the 'Ode on a Grecian Urn is worth any number of old ladies."

But the reverence, if a touch comic, is justified by the writing. In just seven years, from 1929 to 1936, he produced an extraordinary series of books: Sartoris, The Sound and the Fury. As I Lay Dying. Sanctuary, Light in August, Absalom! Absalom!

He was, by his own descrip-tion, a Southern writer, and that is inescapably part of the interest. He wrote about the extraordinary period after the Civil War, but before the Second World War, when the South had not yet been trans-formed by the flood of cash from Franklin Delano Rooseveit's New Deal.

His writing goes to the heart of the preoccupations which made the South so separate from the rest of the country— and sometimes still do. "Tell about the South" commands a character in Absalom!, Absalom!. which many call his greatest novel. "What's it like there, what do they do there, why do they live there, why do they live at all?"

The South was haunted by obsession with defeat at the hands of the North, with the failure of a tradition, a way of life and an economic system. As Faulkner put it, the "deep South dead since 1865" was "peopled with garrulous out-raged baffled ghosts" still protesting at that catastrophic

humiliation. Faulkner romanticises the culture of the South before the Civil War, denying what he called the "old sharme" of slavery. He nurtures the myth, like Gone with the Wind, of happy plantations, with blacks and whites

living harmonious-But beyond those

localised themes from the Civil War, there is an immersion in the darker, ageold wars between the sexes and the races. The stories are shocking now, never mind at

The books do "present difficulties", as his professional advocates in academia are prone to say coyly. There are tortuous cascades of phrases, as Faulkner attempts to capture the world in a single sentence. There are, too, his public statements on race, which have damned him in the eyes of some literature departments. In one famous remark - which he later disavowed, claiming he had been drunk -- he declared: "As long as there's a middle road, all right, I'll be on it. But if it came to fighting I'd fight for Mississippi against the United States even if it meant going out into the street and shoot-

ing Negroes."

Despite those obstacles, it's worth persisting. Compared with the myth of constantly reinventing yourself which permeates so much of American culture and writing, it is salutary to be reminded, as Faulkner put it, that in his part of the country "The past is never dead. It's not even past". And if you've gone to Oxford and are, against the odds, unsatisfied, there is always Elvis, an hour down the road.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Tony Blair's Rasputin

person in Britain today? The answer is easy, the Prime Minister, the Great White Smile, the one-and-only Tony Blair. But who is the second most powerful person in

On Monday morning a cloud no bigger than a politician's promise darkened the countenance of Downing Street. It was the front page of The Sun, a paper to which Mr Blair puts his ear each day, believing it to be the voice of the common man, an individual otherwise absent from his schedule. The front page was brutal. Alongside a picture of Mr Blair and his colleagues, it asked, "Is this the most arrogant Cabinet in history?" A Latin grammarian

expecting the answer yes. The Sun's outburst followed a stream of recent incidents suggesting a Government obsessed with control and frightened of dissent. Downing Street seemed unable to tolerate phenomena as diverse as democratic Labour primaries, leaks of the Lawrence inquiry, unimprisoned schizophrenics or unattended homework. Whereas centralised control was previously asserted with barely a whip's crack, trouble was bursting out all over. The inevitable whisper is doing the rounds. This would not have happened in the old days of the Prince of

The talk is that the Prime Minister misses Peter Mandelson. He wanders the lonely corridors mooning over his ghost, like Henry II over Becket. He misses the soft murmur in the ear, the seductive beep of the pager, the reassuring morning call to give him "the day's message". Mr Mandelson's reputation blossoms over his early grave. Happy the courtier whose fall is followed by fiasco. "Every Prime Minister needs a Willie," said Margaret Thatcher of Viscount Whitelaw. Every Blair seems to

need a Mandy. The departure of Mr Mandelson has upset the power balance within Britain's most opaque political institution. Downing Street. He was close to Mr Blair, yet he was outside the Downing Street coterie, located first in the Cabinet Office then at Trade and Industry. He was thus a rival conduit of advice to that of the Press Secretary. Alastair Campbell. In Opposition, these two spindoctors had complemented each

other, Mr Mandelson the modern-

A vain premier and his closest

courtier are in a dangerous embrace

ist, Mr Campbell the old sawbones. Mr Blair was so insecure he would have Mr Campbell sit next to him during radio interviews, a comfort awarded by the BBC to no other politician. Afterwards he would be on the mobile phone to Mr Mandelson to find out "how it played". The rivalry of the two men was held in

check by nothing going wrong.

The question was, who would survive when the going got tough. Before the election, Mr Campbell had asked Baroness Thatcher's

press officer, Sir how he should handle Mr Mandelson if they should both find themselves in Downing Street. Sir Bernard's reply was brisk, "Slit his throat." He would have to show be was boss. This grim necessity was preempted by the Government's continued good fortune and by a greater rivairy, the infor-

mal "separation of powers" between Downing Street and the Treasury. This rivalry was resolved, for the time being, when Mr Blair lost Mr Mandelson and Mr Brown lost his own spin-doctor. Charlie Whelan,

last Christmas. Mr Campbell has swiftly moved to capitalise on their fall. He is now in a position of dominance over Mr Blair that alarms almost all who have dealings with Downing Street. He is far more than a press officer. His relations with both Tony and Cherie Blair, long close, now parody Rasputin's with Tsar Nikolas and Alexandra. Mr Campbell is the fearless magician who claims to be

able to stem the haemophiliac flow

of bad news that is hereditary to all governments. In this, his role is quite different from Sir Bernard Ingham's. Sir Bernard kept his place below the Cabinet sair. He did not attend ministerial meetings, was briefed by officials and acted merely as the boss's protector and mouthpiece. He was output, never input. Mr Campbell attends Cabinet meetings, the first Downing Street press officer to do so. He even goes to defence meetings on Kosovo. He has total access to the Prime Minister and has no reticence in giving his point of view. Last month Mr Blair was involved in a Sey-chelles dinghy "rescue". The lobby joke was that he must have phoned Mr Campbell from the boat to ask what to do. It was no joke. He did.

All Prime Ministers have those with whom they nat-But even Margaret Thatcher was careful to garner advice and thus diffuse collective responsibility. She had served in difficult Cabinets herself. Mr Blair did not. He is inexperienced in executive power. He has rendered Cabinet more than agency chiefs, even stealing their more photogenic announcements for himself (especially if they involve nurses or

children). Ministers are left to take the flak and deliver crudely quantified manifesto pledges. Both Frank Dob-son and David Blunkett are now frantic to achieve waiting list and maths targets of ludicrous preci-sion. British public administration is becoming a Benthamite night-mare, in which every teacher, doctor, social worker and policeman must climb a statistical league table each year or slither to ignominy.

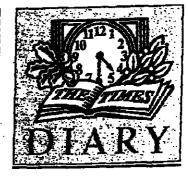
At the centre of this web of control is Downing Street, and at its centre is Mr Campbell. With him in lonely splendour are Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet secretary; Jonathan Powell, whose fortunes are heavily linked to peace in Ulster; Jeremy Heywood, the Treasury's ambassador at Blair's court; and the policy chief. David Miliband. These men run Britain to a degree that no previous Downing Street team has done. They are far more than a kitchen cabinet. They are Mr Blair.

Yet accountability in government never disappears. Every actor needs an audience. Every writer needs a critic. A government may stille its enemies, neuter its party and nobble its Parliament, but it will still crave a response. In the absence of any other, it will turn to the media, cussed, irresponsible, detested, but always ready to oblige. Faute de mieux, the British media have a virtual monopoly on political opposition in Britain today.

r Blair is emerging from the chrysalis of triumph as an odd sort of Prime Minister. Supremely charismatic, he is not intellectually tough. He is strangely mesmerised by the views nen. He l Like many leaders before him, he is bored by the details of policy but loves the surface theatricality of foreign affairs. He prefers the empty but well-turned phrase to the substantive idea. He is an advocate always in need of a brief. But nothing seems to compel him so much as his ever-changing mirror of the press. "How will it play?" he demands of a policy, long before "What should it be?"

Thus does Mr Blair find himself closeted ever more closely with Mr Campbell. Thus does Mr Campbell find himself ever more exposed to the Cabinet as the true "Deputy Prime Minister", fiercely loyal increasingly exhausted and, as in his recent Fabian lecture, paranoid before his time. Mr Campbell's past experience is only of the incestuous world that is now the butt of his scorn, the press. He has a short fuse, a young family and too little time to himself. Mr Blair's reliance on him is total and relentless. It is surely unhealthy for both of them. They should remember who did in Rasputin. It was those who claimed to have the Tsar's best interest at

No article should need later exegesis. Last week I satirised Robin Cook's diplomacy by suggesting that Turkey's troubles with the Kurds might be next in line for his bomb-happy intervention. The irony of my argument was lost in a malicious translation, which has caused wide offence in Turkey. I strongly oppose interference in the affairs of sovereign states, especially where they concern separatist con-flicts, as innumerable articles on this page will attest.



Song of strife

THE Pet Shop Boys are threaten-ing to sue Roger Scruton. The popsters Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe are upset about a reference to them in the philosopher's An Intelligent Person's Guide to Modern Culture. It questions how much input they have in their records.

Scruton is surprised his words should have been considered defamatory by the singers. He insists that he thinks they are brilliant studio technicians. "I am concerned if this has given offence," Scruton tells me. "A lot of my writing does and I apologise if my words are misinter-preted." Misinterpreted?

WHISKY to the general. Lord Lamont of Lerwick has sent a bottle to dear Augusto Pinochet. Norm, campaigning to get the Generalissimo home, felt he needed cheering up. When Pinochet received it, he asked: "Is Lamont a law lord?" He looked glum when he learnt that Norm had only been a Chancellor.

LIZ CALDER is to be eased out of the Editor-in-Chief's chair at Bloomsbury. The grand dame of Fitzrovian fiction is to be replaced by someone more able to "pull in the young talent". Calder is editor to many heavy volumes, such as Margaret Atwood, as well as Will Self and Joanna Trollope (below). She is to be replaced by Alexandra Pringle, a literary agent of five



years' standing, who has also been editorial director of Virago and Hamish Hamilton.

shortly to replace Calder, a founding director, next January. "But Liz will continue to work on her own list within Bloomsbury for the foreseeable future," i am told.

LITERARY courting. American Psycho author Brett Easton Ellis tells me he had a blind date with Donna Tartt. "We were both at Bennington College, Vermont," says Ellis. "Friends set us up as we both wrote. We put first chapters of our books in each other's pigeonholes. She got the first chapter of Less Than Zero and she sent me A Secret History. Then we discussed them on the date."

KEN LIVINGSTONE is gently setting aside his idealism to address a male only gentlemen's club.
The Savile, devoid of women since 1868, will be platform for Ken's mayoral bid in April.

His recce into the haunt of Robert Louis Stevenson and Sir Edward Elgar is courtesy of Illtyd Harrington, his GLC chum and Savile stalwart. My advice: if you want to stay standing, avoid the club claret.



SIR JAMES SPICER has met his Churchillian hour of destiny. The ex-Tory MP plans to cap 40 years in politics — by standing for the local council. Sir Jimmy, 73, is to fight Beaminster: "I don't really want to, but I can't stand our Liberal council," he booms. "It will bang the drum for oldies."

FASHION god: Stephen Byers. The slick Trade and Industry Secretary has sashayed into London Fashion Week: Shoes are my weakness," he tells me. "I wear trainers at weekends when I walk across the moor and I wear shorts when people might not see me. I like clothes, especially Armani, but," he adds mysteriously, "there is pressure to wear dark suits."

DURING filming of Shakespeare in Love, Joseph Fiennes fell for Gwyneth Paltrow — dressed as a boy: "She made a lot of guys doubt their sexuality. I love that confusion of love." I fear the admission is called bad box office.

JASPER GERARD

'I cannot call the fire brigade for help because the animal stuck in my acacia tree is a sheep'

n the centre of my back garden, some fifty feet from the house, there is a large acacia tree. Could be forty feet high: taller, certainly, than the loft in which I currently sit, staring at it. Now, while I normally sit staring at it because I do not know what to write, today is different; today i am staring at it because I do not know what to do. Which means that today. I do at least know what to write: I shall write about what I do not know what to do

What I do not know what to do about is the animal which is stuck in the branches of the acacia tree. It is has been stuck there for some hours. It is so stuck that it cannot come down of its own accord, and since it is halfway up the acacia tree, it is too high for my accord to be of any help to it. Yes, you are right, to discourage birds from dining in such cases the normal course on the seed with which, a couple

is to call the fire brigade: but this case is a bit less such than that. I cannot call the fire brigade. because the animal is a sheep. You will reply that this should not faze the fire brigade, we have seen London's Burning, there is no job too great or small for these plucky lads, they would have that sheep down in a trice - and I do not disagree. I didn't say the fire brigade couldn't do it. I said I couldn't call them.

Let me lower my stare, in your behalf, to the grassy area below the tree. See, it is not as grassy as it should be. That is because the tree is above it. Every year, as the tree spreads wider the lawn grows balder. But this year I decided to remedy that, which is why my lowered stare can also see that the grassless area, about a hundred square feet, is roped off and criss-crossed with twine

of days ago, I sowed the

It does not, of course, discourage the birds at all. They are not mugs, birds; they have knocked about a bit. and they have learnt that criss-crossed twine is not unlike a Michelin star, criss-crossed twine says this is a top place to eat, this is gourmen heaven, bring the fami-

ly, tell your friends. No sooner had I finished criss-crossing and gone inside than a hundred square feet of beaks were tucking in. So I went outside again, waving and shouting, and they flew off and stood on the fence. After an hour or so it got dark, and we all went somewhere else. That night. Mrs Coren suggest-ed I stick a broom in the middle

so much clearer than criss-crossed twine that, next morning, the clien-tele trebled. Birds were diving from ten thousand feet. I had sown Pearl Harbor. So since, after a couple of hours. all the fun had somehow gone out of shouting and waving, I tele-

phoned the garden cen-tre where I had bought the seed. Yes, they said, that is one of the curious things about birds: despite having extremely small brains, they nevertheless have just enough IQ to know that a broom with a hat on is a broom with a hat on. What I needed, they continued, was a scarecrow that moved in the wind, such as balloons, Better yet, said Mrs Coren, as I place where we used to get inflatable figures for the children's birthday bashes? It was called The Non-Stop Party Shop, in Sydney Street. I think that they had inflatable cats, said Mrs Coren. Those would be just the thing.

They probably would. There is no way of knowing. Having driven from Cricklewood to Chelsea, i discovered that The Non-Stop Party Shop did not have inflatable cats. They had only one inflatable animal. Can you guess what it was? Of course you can; but can you guess why the box declared it to be The Bonking Sheep? I couldn't guess, either, but when I inflated it. I noticed that it had an orifice. Mrs Coren and I looked at the orifice for a bit, and then Mrs Coren obed I stick a broom in the middle of the patch and put a hat on it. It coat on, did I remember that eyes. She asked me if I had ever fire brigade?

seen a sheep with blue eyes before. I told her I didn't think so, but then again, I didn't go to many non-stop parties, these days. Do you think it'll frighten the birds off, she said, and I said I don't know, but it scares the hell out of me.

That was Monday afternoon. just before I took the sheep out into the garden and tied its front legs to two pegs, leaving its back end free to swing about in the breeze. And, do you know, it was a total success: from 2pm to nightiali, not a bird went near. But it is Tuesday morning, now, and, as you may just have guessed, the breeze went from strength to strength last night. I don't know what time the gale got up, I know only that it did not get up alone, which is why I have a blue-eyed sheep with an orifice in my acacia tree. Now do you understand why I can't call the



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FIVE TESTS FOR EUROPE

From changeover to people's choice: The Times looks forward to what must change before any referendum

esterday in the Commons, the cycle with that of the eurozone. The Prime Minister fired the starting gun for his attempt to take Britain into monetary union. In substance as well as style, this was no mere "change of gear" but the crossing of the Rubicon that Paddy Ashdown rushed to applaud. Tony Blair's desire to steer Britain into EMU is now clear. The euro, he says, is "a reality"; Britain must prepare to be part of it.

The amendments that he announced to this year's Finance and Social Security Bills require substantial public investment. They anticipate a victory in the national referendum which, the Government has promised, would follow a Cabinet decision to join. Britons are not to be asked their view before this money is spent, only afterwards. These amendments will authorise government departments to make their systems euro-compatible. The Government is thus planning on the basis that the single currency is here to stay, that it

will be well managed and that Britain will be part of it. And Mr Blair has now given the lobbyists for EMU the signal they have long demanded, starting a process designed to convince voters that entry is a foregone conclusion.

nevitability is one of the most seductive mantras of modern . European politics. To go with the flow is the greatest desire of modern European politicians. To is, be left out of a seemingly inevita-र्ग ble European unification is almost the greatest fear of this consciously modern British Prime Minister.

Fortunately. Mr Blair has another fear, greater even than his fear of exclusion from the councils of those who have chosen EMU. He fears repudiation and defeat by the British electorate. He will not recommend to Britons that they give up their currency unless he is confident that the reply will be yes. Today that answer would be no.

Yesterday's statement is confirmation of his confidence that he can change public opinion. He will, however, follow the trend of that opinion with exquisite care. His decision on whether to ask voters to join will still depend on when and if he judges that the majority is so persuaded. Thus, in a decision based on the constant analysis of opinion polls, millions think, and to choose. Those people and institutions best able to influence public opinion have the

very greatest responsibility. The Times, which is both a British newspaper and a European newspaper, is one of those institutions. For more than two centuries we have watched the successes and failures of continental countries to seek prosperity and harmony. We have had no monopoly of wisdom. But no newspaper has surpassed us for engagement in the issues which guide the islands of Britain in their dealings with the rest of the world.

We are not, and never have been. anti-Europeans, little-Englanders, blood-and-soil nationalists or shrinkers from the risks of the unknown. Those epithets already form the charge-sheet against all opponents of Britain adopting the euro; and in some cases the use of these words may be justified. The Times, however, is not persuaded of the economic merits of monetary union and takes the constitutional issues more seriously than the Prime Minister appears to.

As Europeans, as internationalists, as democrats and advocates of free trade in goods and ideas, we want to see a successfully modernising, dynamic Europe open to the world. The reforming agenda for Europe that Mr Blair set out yesterday is one that we would share. He believes that this is the direction that the eurozone is

taking. But in the 11 countries of the eurozone, what we see is too much of the opposite. On the long referendum road, where their every move and mood will be observed by government pollsters, the British people should be acting as sharp observers themselves, looking at the eurozone to see if this is a system to which they want to lock their fate.

The Government's policy, as set out in October 1997 and given L vastly greater political impetus by the Prime Minister yesterday, can be simply summarised. "In principle", it wants to join. The "constitutional issue" is a factor but "not an overriding one". Mr Blair set it aside even more clearly yesterday, saying that "it is right for Britain to overcome these political and constitutional arguments and the fears behind them". "The economic benefits must", however, "be clear and unambiguous." The Cabinet will recommend entry only if five economic tests are met. The "first and most critical" is the durable convergence of the UK business

second is sufficient "flexibility" to adapt to a single currency regime. The Government accepts that "unemployment and inflexibility" are problems for eurozone countries, but the emphasis is on Britain's need to tackle its own "long-term unemployment, lack of skills and in some areas lack of competition". The third is the effect on inward investment to the UK. The fourth is the impact on the City's future as Europe's leading financial centre which the Government believes would be more secure within EMU. The fifth is the

effect on British jobs. These are practical markers, concentrating on technical questions such as asymmetric business cycles. The tests are narrow even in terms of the Government's insistence, reinforced by the Prime Minister yesterday, that the decision will be based exclusively on economic considerations. And they are tests for Britain to pass, not ways of

THE FIVE TESTS

Before serious debate can begin about the

• The "European social model" with its low

growth, high taxes and huge unemployment

must give way to one that is more dynamic

and competitive. Signs of this will be

and much smaller public payrolls.

Government spending, adjusted for

Flexible labour markets must show

dramatically reduced state intervention,

elimination of subsidies, reform of welfare

cent or less of GDP, enabling steep cuts in

laws and other non-competitive practices,

key part of this test will be a steep and

British levels, with strong private sector

growth in jobs.

solid objective test.

Maastricht treaty.

EU enlargement.

sharply reduced non-wage labour costs and

sustainable fall in eurozone unemployment,

currently averaging 10.8 per cent, to around

The single currency must be a manifest and

sustained success. It must work smoothly to

the benefit of all its members and command

popular support. To avoid social unrest, a rise

in nationalism or a political backlash against

the EU itself, the gains must seen by a clear

majority of Europe's voters to outweigh the nain of economic adjustment and the

eurozone must begin to demonstrate that it

can ride out recessions and shocks that affect

some member states more than others: by the

expected referendum date of 2002, this vital

criterion is unlikely to be measurable by any

The constitution of the European Central

now the most powerful public institution in

Europe but it is not responsible to any elected

body. It operates in secret, refuses to disclose

as judge and jury of its own performance. Its

officials cannot be dismissed, disciplined or

censured by any government or elected body.

charge it with avoiding deflation as well as

Europe's elected governments, already causing

inflation. Its adversarial relationship with

major political clashes in Europe, must be

clarified. Making the ECB's constitution compatible with democracy and economic

reality will require amendments to the

Monetary union must prove workable

national sovereignty in fiscal policies.

domain. The drive to harmonise or

without a drive to European political union.

Key parts of this test will be the retention of

including corporate taxation and taxes on

extension of collective decision-making in this

'co-ordinate" national laws, whether directly

in EU councils or indirectly, through recourse

by the Commission to social chapter, health

and safety or single market provisions, must

be halted. Both politically and economically.

monetary union must not be an obstacle to

measuring what would make the

pass before debate can be joined about

whether it could conceivably make

sense for Britain to be part of it. These

tests must be met before the Govern-

ment should even consider putting

To list them indicates the distance to

be travelled. Much of Europe still

awaits its modernising revolution. In

terms of labour costs, welfare bills,

bankrupt pension funds, state subsidies

and government spending, taxation and

unemployment, the eurozone needs to

change in fundamental ways. When

these changes have been clearly seen to

happen, Europe will indeed be "going

Britain's way", making possible a

rational assessment of the "success" of

the single currency and a properly

based debate on whether this country

should take an irreversible step to stay

membership to a referendum.

Te believe that tests are needed

the single currency area must

on the other side too, tests that

the eurozone must be outward-looking:

eurozone irresistibly attractive.

savings, with the veto preserved and no

The ECB's objectives must be revised, to

its voting records, sets its own targets and acts

Bank must be radically reformed. The ECB is

diminution of democratic controls. The

open markets in government procurement. A

disincentives and unfunded pensions systems

accelerated privatisation, must be cut to 45 per

consistently high levels of employment. That will require visible reform of restrictive labour

advantages and constitutional costs, the

eurozone needs to undergo substantial

balance between EMU's economic

economic and political change:

in line with its continental neighbours. A thriving monetary union would have a stable currency, a rate of growth as high or higher than its competitors and, after a decade of economic stagnation, a thriving jobs market in economies open to the world. For this scenario to be realised, and for unemployment to shrink at all, eurozone governments must first liberate their economies far more aggressively than they show signs of doing. Prospects that the euro will promote structural reforms in the eurozone of the kind we see as indispensable are currently slight. The trend, as we see it - and as Oskar Lafontaine and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the German and French finance ministers driving the eurozone agenda, describe it - points the other way.

The euro-II governments have demanded much sacrifice from their publics as they squeezed their economies into conformity with the Maastricht criteria. Most have neglected supply-side reforms. These will now be politically tougher to put in place: voters have been told to expect a euro-dividend in jobs, not further painful adjustments and initial job losses. The eurozone is not an "optimal currency area" where labour moves freely between broadly compatible economies. Germany's overall labour costs are four times those in Portugal and more than a third higher than Italy's - and Britain's. Low-cost, high-unemployment countries such as Spain will have every incentive to make the most of these cost differentials.

There will therefore be a temptation, to which Germany and France are already succumbing, to demand tax, social security and wage harmonisation to protect them against "social dumping". This will be severely counter-productive. If Britain were to join monetary union, the risk is that, far from increasing its influence for change, membership would put Britain under irresistible pressure to dismantle this country's hard-won reforms of the past two decades.

A further cause for concern is the eurozone's design faults, notably the insulation of the European Central Bank from political accountability and its exclusive concern with price stability. These increase the risks that a one-sizefits-all monetary policy will be needlessly deflationary.

"Convergence" with stagnant, unreformed economies would be an historic error. So far, Britain and its European partners seem to us to be marching to the sound of different drums. We prefer the British beat, not for narrow nationalistic reasons but because it strikes a more distinctively modern note. We see no gain in being yoked to economic creeds outworn. nor do we think that this would benefit the EU any more than it would benefit Britain.

We would, finally, need to be persuaded on the constitutional issues which, whatever Mr Blair affects to believe, have not been resolved. The importance to democracy of political accountability cannot lightly be dismissed. The EU's democratic deficit, wide enough already, gapes wider still under monetary union.

British politicians, though not British voters, have always been reluctant to acknowledge the political dimensions of the EU. Their continental partners, more realistic, believe that this democratic deficit will be bridged only by a pan-European government. The single currency, as many of them now openly say, requires one.

But such a government of all Europe is not inevitable - particularly if Britain stays out of the eurozone. We see the possibility of a far safer and healthier alternative, one that will keep government close to the governed and be more compatible with an enlarged Union.

Britain's membership of the EU is a settled fact. Outside or inside EMU, it will have powerful political influence. It should use this influence to encourage the EU to work with the grain of Europe's immense diversity. Only thus can the experiment of European Union be compatible with the pull of national loyalties. The cause of European integration is not best served by the notion that all countries must march in lock-step. For historical reasons, some EU countries genuinely desire political integration. They should be able to go ahead. provided that nations not sharing that

desire do not have to join them. Flexibility is the key to harmony and prosperity in Europe. That is the strategic prize which every British voter should keep in mind when an inflexible future is being represented, increasingly and ever more shrilly represented, as an inevitable one.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prospects for the police after accusation of racism

From the Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales

Sir. I am confident that all police officers will recognise the gravity of the issues dealt with in the Macpherson report (details, February 22 and 23). This organisation speaks on behalf of all officers in England and Wales below the rank of superintendent.

The overwhelming majority of those officers have feelings of deep sadness and regret over the events surrounding the murder of Stephen Lawrence. There has been a tragic miscarriage of justice, due almost entirely to the mistakes made during the murder investigation. In their dealings with the Lawrence family. some officers may have been insensitive. But there can be no justification for a blanket allegation that the police did not care about this murder because the victim was black.

I have no wish to understate the real problems of racism in the police service. However, I cannot accept that the report is right to conclude that the Metropolitan Police (or any other police force in Britain) is riven by pernicious and institutionalised racism". Sir William Macoherson of Cluny defines this as "the collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour. culture or ethnic origin". Collective implies that responsibility for this

failure applies across the board. This is grossly unfair. It ignores the work put in day after day by the great majority of police officers who strive to uphold their oath of office, to act without fear or favour towards all members of the community. If there are failings in policies and operational strategies, they are faults of leadership and management among those who take these decisions, be they legislators or chief officers.

The Police Federation accepts that the story of training police officers in race relations is one of good intentions overridden by operational priorities and inadequate resources.

In spite of several working parties and reports that have identified the problems and laid down principles and training programmes, there has been a massive failure to implement

agreed criteria.

The self-confidence of the police has been seriously undermined and unless it is restored, and quickly, the long-term consequences for police and the public could be very damaging. Perhaps now the Home Secretary, all chief officers and police authorities

Yours faithfully. FRED BROUGHTON. Chairman, Police Federation of England and Wales. 15-17 Langley Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6LP. February 23.

From Mr Lawrence T. Roach

Sir. The anti-racist credentials of Sir. Paul Condon are beyond dispute. His Metropolitan Police service has a highly creditable record of efforts to eradicate racism from its ranks. Changing such deep-rooted attitudes is normally the work of generations.

To condemn him and his officers now for failing to transform the Metropolitan Police in the relatively short time he has had in his post is surely both ill-considered and unjust.

Yours faithfully, LAWRENCE T. ROACH, 43 Ripon Way. Borehamwood Hertfordshire WD6 2HY. February 23.

From Mr Simon Hughes, MP for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Liberal Democrat)

Sir. No effort must be spared to climinate racism from all our public . services but, above all, our police. We must be vigilant, however, not to turn accountability into scapegoating tleading article, February 23).

Sir Paul Condon took over the Metropolitan Police a matter of weeks before Stephen Lawrence was killed. If it was racist at that time, the fault must lie chiefly with his predecessors. Since 1993, however much more there is to do, things have significantly

Fingers should not be pointed at successive Metropolitan Police Commissioners without being pointed also at the Metropolitan Police authorities namely the Home Secretaries. If the last Government had transferred responsibility for the Metropolitan Police away from the Home Office to people directly accountable to Londoners (as Liberal Democrats have always argued and this Government is now doing), racism in the police service would almost certainly have been tackled much more quickly.

The most constructive way forward from this week should entail the most determined effort to recruit black and Asian graduates to our public services, in particular to the police, and a much greater commitment to providing the police with the resources for the personnel and the technology they need to investigate crime in

Yours sincerely. SIMON HUGHES (Liberal Democrat London Spokesman). House of Commons. February 23.

'Kneejerk' injunction on press

From the Director of the Guild of Editors

Sir. It is little wonder that editors who are usually in fierce competition were united in their condemnation of the Home Secretary's injunction against The Sunday Telegraph (reports, February 22).

For years Labour has promised a Freedom of Information Act. After the 1997 election its pledges were strengthened. Such an Act was described as a cornerstone of constitutional reform yet Mr Straw is believed to be in favour of watering down its provisions, particularly with regard to the police (report, January 12).

The media still face threats from the Human Rights Act; organisations are hiding behind the new Data Procould mean a generation vanishing from newspaper pages and TV screens. Mr Straw's injunction was a kneeierk reaction in the direction of secrecy when he should be leaning towards greater openness. So much for fine words.

Yours sincerely, BOB SATCHWELL Director. Guild of Editors. University Centre, Granta Place. Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 IRU. February 22.

From Dr Kenneth MacRae

Sir, In whose interests was it for The Sunday Telegraph to attempt to publish excerpts from Sir William Macpherson's inquiry on Sunday when the report of the inquiry is to be published in full on Wednesday, once the interested parties, the Lawrence family and the Metropolitan Police have had an opportunity to read it in its entirety? The Sunday Telegraph's.

This, alas, is yet another example of the press acting in its own selfish commercial interest, behaving more as part of the entertainment industry than a responsible guardian of the public interest. The almost universal support for The Sunday Telegraph's actions elsewhere in the press clearly suggest that the interests of those affected by this inquiry are regarded as secondary to increased sales of

A free press is a fundamental part of a free society, and it is sad to see such irresponsible behaviour by one newspaper being supported by so many others.

Yours faithfully. KENNETH MacRAE.

5 Northeroft Terrace, W13 9SP. February 22.

White Paper waffle

From Field Marshal Lord Carver

Sir, I have now read the Government's White Paper, Modernising Parliament: Reforming the House of Lords. I cannot recall ever having read a paper which repeated itself so often and said so little in so many words.

I suggest that some literary or educational establishment should offer a prize for a version which says all that is essential to the paper in the shortest span. The Stationery Office should then

cost it in comparison with the 51 pages of the White Paper's glossy waffle for which they charge £8.20.

Yours truly. CARVER. House of Lords. February 19.

Return of the Marbles

From Mr G. A. Lemos

Sir. I applaud Mr Michael Goldman's suggestion (letter, February 20) that high-quality facsimiles of the Elgin Marbles should be juxtaposed with the originals and the Greeks invited to select between them, from a distance of five metres. However, I propose that Greek schoolchildren should make the choice, rather than senior representatives of the Greek

The pieces chosen should then be exhibited at the British School of Archaeology in Athens, as a deserved tribute to the scholars who have contributed so much to the Greek sense of cultural identity. It would only remain for copies to be made of the pieces still in Athens and for the

Business letters, page 29

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - 0171-782 5046 -- or by e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Still fizzing

From Mr Barry Hyman

Sir, Contrary to your Weekend item. The drinks that time forgot - Sodastream" (February 20), mine is still going strong. I won it from the maker in a slogan competition a decade ago. and it replaced the one I had acquired at a jumble sale. In the summer there is nothing better than a personally over-fizzed, bright-green, ice-cold "Bertie's |sugar-free regrettably| Limeade concentrate".

Genetically unmodified and free from BSE, CJD, listeria, E.coli and salmonella, my Sodastream still has its old spot in our new kitchen.

Yours etc. BARRY HYMAN. 4 Priory View, Bushey Heath. Hertfordshire WD2 3QZ.

February 20. trustees of the British Museum to

thoose between them. Thus you would get truly "cultural" Olympics, in 2004, in which I would place my drachmas (or euros by then)

Yours truly, G. A. LEMOS, (Member, British Greek Cultural Friendship Association). 8 Orchard Court, Portman Square. WIH 9PA. marbles@parthenon.demon.co.uk

on the Greek schoolchildren.

From Mr David Townley

Sir, Mr Alf Lomas, MEP (letter, February 20), who suggests that your leading article of February lo contained the "usual hoary old nationalistic arguments". is guilty of calling the kettle black.

What is the Greek demand for the return of the Elgin Marbles other than nationalistic? As an enthusiastic supporter of the European state, Greece should be indifferent to where in Europe her treasures rest.

Yours faithfully, DAVID TOWNLEY. 92 Fir Tree Road Banstead, Surrey SM7 INQ. February 20.

Jenkins and Turkey

From Mr Altemur Kiliç

Sir, As a long-time reader of The Times and of Mr Simon Jenkins, I am aware of his rather biting and sarcastic style and sense of humour.

I therefore can discern that the main target of his column on February 19 was Mr Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and not Turkey and the Turkish people. But please realise that many of my sensitive compatriots will take his article of February 19, "The Kurd instinct", as an attack on Turks and Turkey (see also letter. February 22).

It is all right for Mr Jenkins to attack Western hypocrisy over Kosovo, but he is ill-advised to do so in relation to Turkey at a very sensitive time for our country, even though the same hypocrisy is being shown towards the Kurdish problem after the capture of a terrorist who has the blood of more than 30,000 Turks and Kurds on his hands.

Yours sincerely, ALTEMUR KILIC (Columnist, Türkiye). Dogru Muvakkit Sokah, No 23 Emirean. Isranbul 80850 February 22

Arsenal's 'fair play'

From Mr Clive Hughes

Sir, Mr Simon Carne (letter, February 17) is incorrect in stating that a referee may not stop a game for unsporting behaviour.

Law 12 of the Laws of the Game states that "a player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if ... he is guilty of unsporting behaviour". The same law also explains that an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any offence where play is stopped to caution a player.

There was no need, therefore, for the referee of the February 13 match between Arsenal and Sheffield United to have waited until the ball was out of play (ie, in the net) before stopping the

If he had acted immediately then the debate regarding "fair play" need never have started.

Yours faithfully. CLIVE HUGHES. 57 Blaen Cwm, Llandudno. Conwy LL30 ILE. clivehughes@arsenalfc.net

February 17.

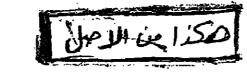
A victory for rugby From Mr John Willcax-Jones

Sir. The Scots now believe they should have beaten the English, although the English do not think they beat the Scots well enough.

The Welsh nearly beat the Irish. who feel they should also have beaten the French (reports, Sport, February 22). Meanwhile the French just smile

 at least for a few more weekends. Raw nationalism prevails with millions following the battles. There are many sore heads the following day, but nobody gets killed - the beauty of the Five Nations is, thank goodness, well and truly with us

Now bring on the Italians! Yours faithfully, JOHN WILLCOX-JONES, La Haye, Reading Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire OXIO 9HG. 100106_3601@compuserve.com



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 23: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace

The Right Hon Tony Blair, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an Audience of The Queen this evening. The Queen accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, this

evening attended a Reception for the LEPRA 75th Anniversary "Quest for Dignity" are compet-tion at the Royal Geographical Society, London, and was received by Sir Christian Bonington (President of LEPRA).

The Lady Elion has succeeded

the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

February 23: The Duke of Edinburgh. President, this morning. Chaired an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Central Council of Physical Recreation at St James's

His Royal Highness today attended the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee Lunch at the Savoy Hotel, London WC2. CLARENCE HOUSE

February 23: Mrs Michael Gordon Lennox has succeeded the Hon-Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 23: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief. The Parachure Regiment today visited by Battalion The Parachute Regiment whilst on exercise on Salisbury

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 23: The Duke of York attended a reception for the

NSPCC at St James's Palace, London SWI.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 23: The Prince Edward, Patron, London Mozart Players, this evening held a Concert and Dinner at Buckingham Palace. February 23: The Princess Royal, Parnen, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, this morning attended the launch of Victim Support's Silver Jubilee. Cranmer House, 39 Brixton Road

Her Royal Highness today attended the National Sporting Club's Calcutta Cup Luncheon at the Cafe Royal, Regent Street. mansier. London.

KENSINGTON PALACE February 23: The Duke of Glouces-ter. Patron, the Friends of the Gibraliar Heritage Society, this evening attended the Annual Meeting and Reception at the Imperial War Museum, London SEI. ST JAMES'S PALACE February 23: The Duke of Kent.

rentary 25. The One of Net-erice and Industry, this morning attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees at the Science Museum. Exhibition Road, London SW7. THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

February 23: Princess Alexandra. President, this morning visited the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Shop at 244 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen, London,

Her Royal Highness, Deputy President, this afternoon received Mr Michael Whitlam upon relinquishing his appointment as Direc-tor-General of the British Red

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will attend Symphony 21, a celebration in music and dance of the Common-wealth Institute's vision for the 21st century, Kensington High Street, London W8, at 2.50.

The Prince of Wales, president, The Prince's Trust, will attend the Eddie Izzard show. Dressed To Kill, Wembley Arena, at 7.40. Prince Edward will attend the annual dinner of the Body of Yeoman Warders of Her Majesty's

Royal Palace & Fortress the Tower of London, at the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers' Headquarters, HM Tower of London, at 7.30. The Princess Royal, patron. National Association of Victims Support Schemes, will attend the launch of the Bobby Scheme at the Banquet-

ing Suite. Surrey County Cricket Club. The Oval, London SEH, at 12.30; and as patron, Benenden reception at St James's Palace at n.30. Princess Alexandra will commemorate the laying of the foundation stone of the Cassel Hospital's

Families Centre. Ham Common. Richmond, Surrey, at 11.30, will inaugurate an exhibition of the work of Augustus John at Olympia, London at 4.00; and will attend a dinner in aid of Children with Special Needs in Egypt, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park, Lane, London W1, at 7.15.

Dinner Royal Institution of Chartered

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and Mr Ken Livingstone. MP, were the speakers at a debate at the annual dinner of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors held vesterday at Grosvenor House Mr Peter Hobday presided president of the institution, was the host. at the debate and Mr Richard Lay.

Meeting Friends of Gibraltar Heritage

Society
The Duke of Gloucester, Patron of Friends of Gibraltar Heritage ing of the society held last night at the Imperial War Museum. Admiral Sir Derek Reffell, chairman. presided.

Sir Nigel catches up with his past

By AJAN HAMILTON

IT IS a fine definition among Whitehall mandarins as to whether the Second Permanent Secretary (Finance) at the Treasury outranks the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Administrative Affairs. But not to worry: both were knighted by the Queen yesterday, and both for the second time.

Sir Humphrey Appleby, the pivotal Machiavelli of the BBC series Yes. Minister, has been a knight for years. Yesterday fiction became fact when his true persona. the actor Nigel Hawthorne was dubbed at Buckingham Palace for services to television.

film and theatre. Sir Nigel, 70, said after-wards that he had felt nervous at the ceremony but so, he thought, had the Queen. Still. he had felt himself in good company. "The chap before me and the chap after me were both senior civil serv-ants, so I really felt quite at home.

He was preceded in the queue for the royal sword in the Palace ballroom by Sir Nigel Wicks, a real-life Treasury mandarin who was being upgraded from Knight Commander of the Bath to Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, a decoration which logically should carry the unfortunate suffix KGB. but in fact affords the wearer the initials GCB.

As he had his photograph taken in the Palace courtyard, Sir Nigel said: "It is a constant surprise to me that I have been so honoured, but that is

Birthdays today

Professor Ceorge Bain, former Principal. London Business School, 60; Judge Inge Bernstein, 68; Professor E. Boyland, biochemist, 94; Mr Brian Close, cricketer, 68; Dr Lionel

Dakers, former Director, Royal School of Church Music, 75; Mr

Seniol of United Music. 18; Mr Reginald Freeson, former MP, 73; Professor G.J.M. Gazdar, FBA, computational linguist, 49; Mr Rich-ard Hamilton, painter, 77; Lord Hazlerigg, 89; Major-General Dav-id Houston, Lord-Licutenant of Sutherland, 73; Mr. Paul, longer

Sutherland, 70; Mr Paul Jones, singer and actor, 57; Miss Pat Kirkwood, actress, 78; Earl Kitchen-

er of Kharroum, 80; Mr David

Langdon, cartoonist and illustrator. 85: Mr Denis Law, footballer, 59: Mr

Anthony Mayer, chief executive, Housing Corporation, 53: Lord Mel-

chett. Si: the Marquess of Norman-by 45: Admiral Sir William Pillar. 75: M Alain Prost, racing driver. 44:

"Sir Humphrey was already knighted, so that was nice. I also played King George III. but I didn't get crowned Mr Derek Randall, cricketer, 48: the Rev Baroness Richardson of Calow, fel: Sir Frank Rogers, a director, Telegraph Group, 79: Mr Dennis Waterman, actor, 51: Sir Jerry Wiggin, former MP, 62.

not to say I don't enjoy it."

For all his protestations of

stage fright, Sir Nigel ap-

peared to feel in command of

yesterday's performance, giv-

en that, on his walk from the

Grand Entrance to the Palace

Ballroom, he passed at least two portraits of himself in

another acclaimed role, that

of King George III. "I thought one of them captured me

rather well, the other less so.

the actor remarked puckishly.

knighted in his own right?

How did it feel to be

蓝

Luncheons Partiamentary and Scientific

Committee
The Duke of Edinburgh was The Duke of Edinburgh was present at the annual luncheon of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. The Earl of Selborne. FRS. president of the committee, was in the chair. Sir Aaron Klug. PRS. was the guest of honour. Lord Sainsbury of Turville. Minister for Science. Lord Hoyle and Sir Michael Spicer. MP, chairman, attended Among others, present attended. Among others present were:

The Earl of Halsbury, FRS, the Earl of Shannon, the Earl of Hichester, Viscount Mersey, Lord Gregson, Baroness Lockwood.

Lord Mnrtis of Manchester. Sir Sydney Chapman. MP. Professor Sir Robert May. FRS. Sir David Davies and Sir Peter Williams.

today." Sir Nigel also con-fessed that being knighted was a good deal less stressful

than waiting to hear if one

had won an Oscar. "The

Academy Awards are very

disconcerting because you are

in competition. This, on the

other hand, is an awards

ceremony among friends, be-

cause you know you've al-

Also knighted yesterday

was Frank Williams, owner of

the Williams Formula One

team, for services to motor racing. Angus Fraser, the Middlesex and England seam

bowler, received his MBE

insignia for services to cricket.

ready got it."

National Sporting Club
The Princess Royal was the royal guest of honour at a luncheon of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Cafe Royal, Mr Lawrence Dallaglio and Mr Rob Wainwright were guests of hon-our. Mr David Willis, chairman of the club. presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Catherine 1, Empress of Russia 1725-27. Dorpat, Estonia, 1684: Wilhelm Grimm, historian and folklore collector. Hanau, Germany, 1786.
DEATHS: Henry Cavendish, physicist and chemist, London, 1810:

Memorial service

Mr Paul McKee A service of thanksgiving and celebration for the life and work of Mr Paul McKee, former Deputy Chief Executive of ITN and Deputy Managing Director of Yorkshire Television, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street, Canon John Oates officiated and Sir Paul Fox read the lesson.

Mr John McKee, brother, Mr David Butler, FBA, Mr Stewart Purvis, chief executive, ITN, and Mr Peter Snow gave addresses. Among others present were:

Among others present were:

Ms Chris McKee Isister). Mr and Mrs Terr Rowley. Mr and Mrs Cobin Garvey. Mr and Mrs Gowley. Mr Andrews McKee. Mr Edward McKee. Mr Georgia McKee. Mr Edward McKee. Mr Georgia McKee. Mr Angela Andrassy and other members of staff: Mr Richard Tari (Editor-in-Chiel. ITN) with Mr Nigel Dacre (Editor. ITN News on ITV) and other members of staff: Mr Richard Grepory (managing director. York-shire Television) and other members of staff: Mr Richard Mr Peter Rogers (ITC). Lady Fox. Sir Abstair Burnet. Mrs Peter Snow. Mr Richard Whueley. Mr Martyn Lewis, Mr and Mrs Peter Sissons. Mr Jon Snow. Mr Alextair Stewart. Mr Michael Jerney. Mr Richard Butter, Mr Robert Hargreaves. Mr David Charcos. Mr Scephen Wright. Mr Tom Phillips. Mr Norman Ress. Mr David Patrick. Ms Enzabeth McCall. Mr How Roberts. Professor Bob Wortester, Ms Angela Frier. Mr Phil Rev Mr Mide Morris Professor. Enzibeth McCall, Mr Haw kopens, Frons-sor Bob Mortester, Ms Angela Frier, Mr Phil Bwe, Mr Milee Morris, Professor Richard Rose, FBA, Mr Nigel Ryan Mr Glyn Mathias, Ms Jane Corbin, Mr Michael Crick, Mrs E Carvey, Mrs f Kennedy and many other friends and former oillengues.

Institute of **Barristers Clerks**

The Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Barristers Clerks was held on Monday, February 22, at The College of Law, Chancery Lane, London, Mr David Goddard was elected chairman in successsion to Mr Stephen Graham at the end of his term of office. Members of the Institute recorded their thanks to Mr Graham for the contribution that he made whilst chairman.

University news

Royal Holloway. University of London Celebrations for the 150th anniver sary of the Founding of Bedford College continue with a series of public lectures/receptions. Main Lecture Theatre, Founder's Building, Egham. February 25 - Steven-son Lecture, Professor Steven Rose, Open University, 'Biology & Human Freedom', 6pm: March 2 Hayes Robinson Lecture, Profes-sor Olwen Hulton, Oxford, Whatever Happened to the History of the Nun?. 5.30pm; March 24 -Lakeman Lecture. Lord Plant of Highfield, Oxford, 'Electoral Re-form Now', 5.30pm. Celebratory Programmes/lecture tickets from Marta Baker, External Relations.

University of Cambridge
The University of Cambridge will award honorary degrees to the following:

RHBNC, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX (tel: 01784 443004).

AS, Boad, author: Dr Jürgen Habermas, philosopher and social theorist: Dr Li ka-Shing, Chairman of Cheung Korig Luk. Dr Cesar Misteria winner of the Notel Prize for Medicine: Dr Liordon Moore, co-founder of lord Cromoration: More Sadala Certa. United Nations High Commissioner for Dutied Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: the Hon Miriam Rothschild, enuomologist: the Right Rev Desmond Tutus, Emericus Architishop of Capetown and winner of the Nobel Peace Price, Sir Celly Si John Wilson, architect of the new British Library.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.A. Aylon

and Miss P.E. Mead The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs Harry Ayron, of Conseil, Co Durham, and Philippa, daughter of Dr and Mrs John Mead, of Havant, Hampshire.

Mr O.B. Benkert and Miss S.L. Holliday

and Miss S.L. Holliday
The engagement is announced
between Oliver, son of Mr and
Pirs Michael Benkert, of Esher,
burrey, and Sarah, daughter of Mr
and Mrs. Richard Holliday, of Ealing, London.

Mr W. Bunting
and Miss Y. Mori
The engagement is announced
between Walter, only son of Mr
and Mrs Walter Bunting, of Little
Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, and
Yukari, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Takehiko Mori, of Chikusa-Ku, Nagova, Japan. Mr G.R.S. Chapman

and Miss A. Venema The engagement is announced between Giles, son of Mr Peter perween ones, son of Mr reer Chapman and the late Mrs Chapman, of Grimsby, Lincolnshire, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Pieter Venema, of Zurich, Switzerland.

Mr SJ. Forrest and Miss K.G. Petric The engagement is announced between Samuel, son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Forrest, of Tunbridge Wells, and Katharine Georgina. daughter of Mr Christopher Petric of Burnham-on-Crouch, and Dr Rosemary Winteringham, of Sutton.

Mr A.R.J. Gibson and Miss K.J. Richards
The engagement is announced

between Alex, only son of Mr and Mrs Christian Gibson, of Bookham, Surrey, and Kirsty, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Terry Richards, of Horsham, West

Mr R.D. Gullan-Whur and Miss S.V. Haryott

The engagement is unnounced between Richard, son of Mr Jeremy and Dr Margaret Gullan-Whur, of Heacham, Norfolk, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Haryott, of Paley Street, Berkshire. Mr D.S.N. Hali

and Miss S.L. Keddic The engagement is announced between Duncan, elder son of Mrs Hall and the late Mr Mickey Hall. of Formby, Liverpool, and Sarah Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham S. Keddie, of Harrogate. North Yorkshire.

Mr J.J. Keon and Miss C.O. Harris

The engagement is announced between Joseph. son of Mrs Margaret Keon, of Marin County. California, USA, and Clare Olivia, laughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Harris, of Bathford, Bath. Mr A.D. Le Cornu

and Miss Z.G. Wall The engagement is

between Aaron, vounger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Le Comu, of St. Brelade, Jersey, and Zoë, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Neal, of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Mr C.W. Pertwee and Miss J.M. Peppitt The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs Roger Pertwee, of Rayn Essey, and losephine, only daughter of Mr James Peppint of Bale, Norfolk, and the late Mrs Joanna

Perput. Mr D.S. Petty and Miss E.F. Home The engagement is announced between David, elder son of the

perween David, cluer son of the Revd and Mrs Stuart Peny of Farmant, Surrey, and Emily, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Gospatric Home, of Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. Mr A.L.A. Plowden-Wardiaw and Miss K.E. Westdal

and Miss K.E. Westdal
The engagement is announced between Louis, son of Mrs M. Plowden-Wardlaw, of Chiswick, London, and the late Mr J.C. Plowden-Wardlaw, and Kirsten Elaine Westdal, of London, elder the Mr J. P. S. P. P. S. P. P. daughter of Mr and Mrs P.S. Westdal, of Winnipeg, Canada.

Mr S.J. Rutherfoord and Dr E.E. Carlyon The engagement is announced, between Simon, son of Mrs Sheld-Rutherfoord and the late Mr John Rutherfoord, of Penzance, and Emma, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Carlyon, of Truro,

Cornwall. Mr A.D. Staples and Miss C.J. Sharman

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr John Staples, of Bolney, West Sussex, and Mrs. Morag Staples, of Ashurst, West Sussex, and Catherine. youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs. John Sharman, of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. Mr A. Stonely and Miss T. Lond-Caulk

The engagement is announced

hetween Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Ron Stonely, of Old Malden. Surrey, and Tina, daughter of Mrs Anita Lond-Caulk, of Sutton, Surrey Mr T.W. Stubbs and Miss F.C. Rees-Webbe

The engagement is announced between Toby, elder son of Mr and Mrs Tim Stubbs, of Bethersden. Kent, and Fiona, eldest daughter of a Lieutenant Colonel Robin Rees-Webbe, of Weston Lullingfields. Shropshire.

Mr T.R. Vernon and Miss J.L. Goodey The engagement is announced between Toby, son of Mr and Mrs Tim Vernon, of Beverley, East Yorkshire, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jim Goodey, of Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Lincoln's Inn

Professor Hugh Beale of Warwick University and Dr Hans Christian Krüger, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, are to become Honorary Benchers of

Legal retirement

Judge Slack retires from the South Eastern Circuit bench on Friday.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

Sir Nigel with the insignia of his knighthood

TRADE; 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

As a father has compas-sion for his children, so the LORD has compas-sion for those who fas-him. For he knows how members that we are dust. Psalm 103.13-14

BIRTHS

AYRE - On 9th February 1999 to Graham and Trudy

BARTY-KING - On 20th February 1999, to Diana mée Loewenthal, and BATCHELOR - On February 18th to Geraldine (née Flatley) and Alex, a son, Joseph Patrick William, brother for Emily and Phoebe.

BOMMARD - On February 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Sanja and Pierric, a son. Milo, a brother for Emma.

COLEMAN - On 15th Fobrnary 1999, to Emma (née Richards) and Hatry nan, a son. Edware

COVELL - On February 22nd and Alex, a son, Charles Alexander Edward

EDMONDS - On 10th February 1999, in

EJI MOFOR - On February 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Delove and Sebastian, a son, ENGLISH - On February 12th, to Frances (née Pyrah) and William, a

ughter, Madeleine izabeth Havers, a sister ERICKSON - On February 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Megan Stone and Brad Erickson, a

FORD - On 14th February, to Elizabeth (née Tremaine) and Richard, a daughter, Georgina Lucy.

GRUNDMAN - On February 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Stocey Infe Beal) and Marc. laughter, Serah Natalie,

HOLLEY - On February 20th at The Portland Hospital. to Annabel and Simon, a daughter, Grace, a sister for Alex. John and

OHRSON - On February litch at The Portland Hospital, to Michele and William, a son. Luke Alexander and a daughter,

KERRIGAN - On February 16th 1999 to Alison Inée Durkin; and Chris, a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth a sister for Katherine and

LEMMARD - On February 17th 1999 to Ginny (née Hawksley) and Mitchel, a son Archie Dickens

SALAMON - On February 23rd 1999 in Tokyo, to Sacha and Jamie, a daughter, Sarina. Grandparents and great-

MMPSON - On Wednesday 17th February 1999, to Phillips (née Rumble: and James, a son, William James Richard.

TALLY - On February 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Teresa Andre and Mark, a son, Kendall Andre Tally.

DEATHS

BARKER - Joan Mary (Dr Hands) died peacefully at home on 15th February 1999, aged 91 Widow of John Barker CBE and much loved mother of Jane and Carol.

BIRD - Commander John Samuel died on Friday Sames died on Friday
19th February after a long
illness agod 76 in Cascais.
Portugal. Only child of Sir
James Bird, founder of
Supermarine before the war which was taken over by Vickers and by vickers are manufacturer of the Supermarine Spitfire Mark XII. He was a test pifet is indis with the Fleet Air Arm during the War and test pilot with Vickers theresiter He was

War and test pilot with Vickers thereafter. He was resident in Portugal for over twenty five years and was well-known for breeding champion Pekinese which he showed in Portugal as wall as abroad. He was cremated in Lisbon. He is survived by his son James proprietor of a helicopter content in Texas USA

DEATHS

RIRY - On February 20th 1999, John Orbell of Blackditch Farm, Stanton Harcourt, Oxford, Beloved husband of Mary, father o Peter, David and

Peter. David and Josephine, grandfather of James, Justin. Victoria. Jonathon, Elizabeth, Julian, Katle, Jessica, Fiona and Robert. Funeral service at St Michael's Church, Stanton Harcourt on Saturday February 27th at 2 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired, to Cancer Research to be shared c/o Groens Funeral Services, 21 High Street Evrisham 21 High Street, Eynsham Witney, Oxon, OX8 1HE

CANTUE: 'née Gill). Carol Cantile, on 20th February in Winchester, of unforseen complications. Funeral 3.00pm. 2nd March. at All Seints. East Meon. Hampshire. Flowers to Roland Son and Vincent. The Square, Petersfield.

COOPER - Lionel aged 88 years. Peacefully in hospital on 20th February Cremation on Friday 26th February Golders Green Crematorium et 12.45 pm.

DAURIS - Grace Holona, pascefully at home on 21st February, aged 92 years. Beloved mother of Colin and grandmother of James and Stephen. Family funeral 1st March. Service of Thanksgiving 3,00pm. Wednesday. 3rd March. St Mary's. Chigwell. No flowers, please. Donations if desired to St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood. Essex. CM 17 9JX.

DAWSON-GROVE - On 30th February 1998, peacefully in hospital, Diana, born in Australia, lived many years in Hong Kong and France and recently in Wimbledon. Beloved mother of Jan and Ann and grandmother of Andrew, Carolyn and Jackle, Funeral Service Jackle, Funeral Service
Monday Ist March 1999,
1.30pm at St Mary's
Church, Merton Park,
SW19 followed by private
cremation. Family flowers
only. Donations if desired
to St Ceorge's Hospital
Special Trustees, c/o
Fredk W Paine. 26 Crowa
Lane, Morden, Surrey SM

peacefully at
Fordingbridge Hospital
Dr. Leonard Charlton
Dean, M.B.E., M.C., J.P.,
M.B.B.S., aged 75 years. Ex
Lst Gurkha Rilles. Dearly
loved husband of Brenda.
Functal Sarvice at

Lane. Morden. Surrey SM4 5BL. 0181 542 1214

DEAN - On February 22nd.

loved husband of Brenda. Funeral Service at Ringwood Parish Church on Thursday, March 4th at 3.00 pm followed by cremation at Bournemouth. No flowers Bournemouth. No flowers please at his request. Donations for Gurkha Welfare Trust may be sent to Barrow Bros. 2 Nursery Road, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 ING.

FULLER - Gwyneth Marjorie inée Tunnicliffe) M.A. (CANTAB), on February inée Tunniculfie) M.A. iCANTABI. on February 23nd 1999 at home. Grand Avenue. West Worthung. West Sussex in her 91st year. Beloved widow of William Vickery Fuller 19x Colonial Service. Deeply regretted by her nieces and nephewa, family and friends. Funeral service, 12.20pm on Tuesday March 2nd at Worthing Crematorium. Inquiries to H D. Tribe Ltd 01903 234516

GOING - Charles Hardinge aged 78 years. Country and Doctor. Peacefully after a short illness. Beloved husband of Muriel, proud father and grandfather Funeral at St Mary's Church, Stebbing at 2.30 pm on Tuesday March 2nd 1999 Family Howers only but donations if desired to Henry Doubleday Research Association, Further enquiries to Michael J. Wash, Stebbing, 101371, 856377.

GREEN - (Née Lister: Dia Jennie Margaret M.B.B.S.
of cancer valiantly fought,
much loved wife of
Richard and adored
mothor of Penny and
Charles, Funeral Service on Monday 1st March at 2pm at St Mary's Parish Church, Hampton, Crematorium, Family flowers only. Denstions in her memory to Cancer Research c. o G.S. Keates,

To place death notices acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

49 High Street, Hampto Hill, Middlesox TW 12

GRUBS - On 22nd February 1999, at Anley Hall N.H. Settle, North Yorkshire, at rest after a long illness.
Nancy Mary aged 96 years.
Funeral Service at the
Parish Church of the Holy

Parish Church of the Holy Trinity, Wray, nr.
Lancester on Friday 26th February at 12 noon followed by cremation. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Christian Aid may be left in the church or c.o Brown & Whittaker. 39 Main Street, Ingleton.
LAG 3EH (015242) 41293. A memorial service will take place at the Parish Church of St Laurence. Downton, Wilts. on 9th March at I lam.

HARVEY - Diana Mary.
Peacefully on 19th
February 1999, aged 73, at
Kingston Hospital, Surrey,
after a short illness. Much
loved wife of the late
Douglas and mother of
lan. Peter and Tim.
Funeral at St James's
Church, Church Lane.
Birdham, near Chichester. Church, Church Lane, Birdham, near Chichester, West Sussex on Friday 5th March at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, but donations welcomed to Lymphoma Research Trust, c/o BNLI, The CRC and UCL Cancer Trials Centre, Middlesex Hospital, Mortlmer Street, London W1N &AA.

LANDER - Fay Marjorie take Pinkerton: Unexpectedly, yet peacefully, on February 16th 1999. Adored wife of Kenneth deceased: The best Mummy in the world to Megan and Emily. Doring grandmother to Alexander. She will be deeply missed by all whose lives she touched. Funeral Service on Monday March 1st 11.30 am at Purney Vale Crematorium, followed by a Memorial Service to

a Memorial Service to a Newtonial Savice to celebrate Fay's life at 12 Jopan at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, Chelsea. Flowers to B. & G. and Son. tel: (0171) 385-7625.

LAWRENCE - On February 20th Kathleen Mons of Beckenham, retired Civil Servant, widow of John Albert and godmother of John Andrew Crecknell. Missed and dearly loved by all Service at by all Service at Beckenham Crematorium on Friday February 26th at 12 30 pm. Enquiries to Francis Chappell & Sons, (0181) 650-0304.

Thomas Bowdler, self-appointed Shakespearean censor, Swansea, 1825.

years, of Ashwiczen.
Funeral service and
interment at All Saints
Church, Ashwicken on
Saturday February 27th at
2pm. Family flowers only.

LEAKE - On February 21st 1999, peacefully at home. Anne Barkley, aged 88 years, of Ashwicken.

LISTER - Doctor Diana, See LOVE - Constance Mary (née Duder) A.R.C.M., widow of J.H.A. Love, on 23rd February peacefully in her sleep at The Knoll, Yeovil, in her 90th year. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

nembered especially

for her musical gifts and her teaching of the young Cremation private at her own request. Service of Thanksgiving at North Perrott at a later date. LYLE - Dr Leonard Gordon

LYLE - Dr Leonard Gordon on February 22nd in his 39th year following a severe stroke. Dearly loved by his wife Peggy and his daughters Mary and lane and loving grandfather to Charles. Edward, James. Amelia and Anna-Marie. He will be greatly miss by all his family and friends. Private family cremation but memorial service to celebrate his life at 3.00pm on Thursday 11th March at St Mary's Church. Shortlands, Kent. Donations if desired to St Mary's Shortlands PCC. All enquiries to H Copeland & Son. 9 Bromley Road. Beckenham, Kent. BR3 557. Tel 07st 589. 7906.

MARSDEN - Janet.
peacefully, on 20th
February, after a short
tilness. With of the late
John Coopur (Jack)
Marsden. Funeral Service
at St Marys Church,
Leverstoke, Whitchurch,
Hampshire, on Tuesday
2nd March, at 2 pm.
Flowers or donations for Laverstoke Church to Howe & Son, Bear Hill, RG20 5QA. (01835) 298303.

MATTHEWS - Eileen on 20th February peacefully at Ringston Hospital in her 88th year. Widow of Mervyn and mother of Tins and Tony. grandmother of Guy. Clare and Rowland and greatgrandmother of Enma. Funeral Service at St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Roehamoton at 18 am on ptop at 10 am or Monday 1st March Family

MOUNSEY - John Patrick WOUNSEY - John Patrick David - Physician. On Sunday 21st February 1999, pascafully at home. Husband of the late Sallie, and dearly loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral

ODDE - Romola peacefully at home on 18th February 1999, aged 85. Mother of Christopher and Hugh, grandmother of Thomas, Matthew, Jane, Melissa and Lara, Funeral Service 3.00pm Friday 25th February at St Benets Church, Cambridge.

SBORNE-YOUNG - Kenneth OSBORNE-YOUNG - Kenneth Henry Osborne-Young DFC peacefully in hospital on February 20th aged 78 years. Beloved husband of Joan and loving father of Fenella, Andrew, Richard and William and grandfather of Milo. Funeral Service at the Church of St Peter and St Paul. Rock. Worcestershire at 3 pm Monday March 1st. at 3 pm Monday March 1st Family flowers only but if desired donations to The day March 1st. rd Dialysis Centre,

Beech Park, Tillington Road, Hereford HR4 9QJ.

PHELPS - Lawrence, mov dearly loved husband of Gillian Weir Pholps, in Boston 22nd February.

REDSHAW (née Jarrold) On 21st February, Mary Elizabeth Redshaw Elizabeth Redshaw peacefully at home, dearly beloved widow of Seymour, mether of David, John and Michael. Funorat at St Mary and St Chad's Church, Brewood, on February 37th at 12 noon. Family flowers only. donations if deaired to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Po Bos 123, Lincolas Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

To place death notices, picase call 0171 680 6880

ROBERTS - On February Roberts MBBS, aged 76. Husband of Margaret. father of Richard and Liz Isther of Richard and Liz and grandiather of live. Beloved by us all. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at St March at 2.30pm. No flowers please Donations for Ward 9A Lister Hospital, made payable to N.M. Maxwell C/o Austins Funeral. Service. 98 Bancroft.

Service, 96 Bancroft. Hitchin, Herts SGS 1NQ. Tel 01463 438422.

BUTHERFORD - Nora Mescal inée Borretti. Peacafully on February 20th. Belove widow of Sandy, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Requiem Mass, 9.30am. Thursday February 25th at Austin February 25th at Austin Friars School, Stanwix, Carlisle followed by private interment at Bowden, R.LP.

SALTER - Peter Hamilton died peacefully on 19th February at Princess Alice Hospice after a long illness. Beloved husband of Mary, father of Janice and Julie and grandfather of Peter, Stephen and Martine. Funeral Service at Kingston Crematorium on 2nd March at 3.00pm. Family flowers only please. Douastloss to The Princess Alice Hospice. Eaher. Tel 01372 468811.

SANDERS - On Eind
February 1999 peacefully
in hospital after a short
illness Sidney Stephen
Knill (Sendy) aged 86
years of Eart Knoyle.
Much loved by all his
family. Funeral Service at
Salisbury Crematerium on
Tuesday 2nd March at
2.200m. By request family Tuesday 2nd March at 2.20pm. By request family flowers only. If desired donations for Sallsbury Hospital Intensive Care Unit may be sent c/o Hill & Son, Funeral Directors, Water Street, Mere, BA12 6DZ, tel: 01747 860351.

SANDFORD - Vyvyan. On 21st February, aged 65, after a short lilinese contracted soon after moving from Newbury to Farningham. Funeral at Church of St Pater and St Paul. Farningham. Kent at 2-30pm on Thursday, 4th March. Donations to The Lions Hospico, Gravosend c/o Leverton Funeral Services, Dartford (01322 225216).

The second of the second

SCOTT - Dr Ridley (retired G.P. of Wall, forthumberland passed Northumberland peased away peacefully on 19th February in Freeman Hospital, Newcastle. A beloved husband of the late Joyce Clayburn and Ursula Middleton, a much loved father of Virginia and the late Rosemary and a beloved grandfather and great-grandfather of all the family. Cremation to

great-grandlather of all the family. Cromation to take place at the West Road Cromatorium, Newcastle upon Tyne on Thursday 25th February at 10.00am followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Georges Church, Wall, Northumberland at SOKOLOW - Stephen
Edward, peacefully in
hospital on 18th February
1999, aged 75. Beloved
father of Natasha,
Nicholas and Michael.
Loving grandfather to
Lodovico, Piero, isabelia
and Alexander. Private
cremation took place on
23rd February.

TAYLOR - Joshua Kenneth Taylor. Peacefully at home on Sunday 2 let February 1999, aged 88 years. Beloved husband of Beloved husband of Muriel, (alber, grandfath and great-grandfather. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Little Abington on Wednesday 3rd March at 2 pm for Lamily and close friends. Family flowers only.

THOMPSON - Enid Mary née Burrat, aged 91. Died pascefully on Saturday 20th February 1999. Beloved wile of Ralph Noel for 61 years. Loved mother of Rosalind and Roger, fondly remembered Grandmother, Cromation of Pandalls Park at Randalls Pork Crematorium, Leatherhead on Friday
26th February at 11,00am.
Family flowers only.
donations to Dr.
Barnardo's. Enquiries to
Andrew Holmes & Son on
0181 391 2400. 0181 391 2400.

URNER - Jessie Morrill "Molly" (nés Roberts) on mony (nee koberts) on February 23rd peacefully at Cowes after years of loving care. Widow of Robert H. Turner, fermerly of Greyfriars, Hog's Back, Guidford and of Henfield. Guidford and of Henfield.
Sussex. Funeral private.
Family flowers only.
Memorial Service at
2.30pm on Wednesday May
5th at 5t Nicholas Church.
Compton, near Guildford.
Donations if wished to
injured Jockeys Fond.
Nowmarket c/o F.L. Lloyd
Funeral Directors. Bridge
Road. Cowes, isle of Wight
PO31 7DT. VICKERSTAFFE - John on Maidstone aged 57 years. Deeply loved and greatly missed. Funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium. missed, Fineral at Vinters Park Crematorium, Maidstone on 2nd March at 4 pm. Family flowers only please. Enquiries and donations if desired for the Coronary Care Unit at Maidstone Hospital (payable to Charge Nurse Holland) to Sears Funeral Service, 3 Fountain Lane. Barming, Maidstone, Ken: ME16 9AT, (01622) 725035

WATTS - On February 22nd 1999 Margaret CBE aged 87 fully prepared and ready to go. Devoted friend of Elizabeth lorwerth Jones, much loved sister of Norah and Aunt of her family, Much loved Aunt of Richard Meade and his family, and Grandmother of David, Stuart and Patrick Macnaghten. Private cremation Aldershot at cramation Adversion at 11.00am on 25th February. Denations if desired to the

Alexander (Tom) of Mill Close, Burwell, formerly Sefton Lodge, Newmarket, pessed away in the West Suffolk Hospital on Monday 22nd February 1998 aged 83 years. A much loved httsband of the bank of the state of th uspand of Isobel. Funeral ervice at St Agnes hurch, Newmarket on Church, Newmarket on Monday March 1st at 3pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. VHARTON - Winefride on

when Winefride on February 18th peacefully at Worthing Hospital, born February 18th 1911.
Auchland, New Zealand.
Dame Commander of the Holy Sepulchre Jerusalem.
Head Teacher rating of St Mary's Cater rating of St Mary's Catholic School, Worthing, Past President of West Sussex Association of Head Teachers. Sister of the late Dom W.F.X. Wharton C.R.L., late Captain H.P. Wharton, Joseph Denis Wharton. Requiem Mass at 10 am on Tuesda March 2nd 1999 at St Mary of the Angels Church, Worthing Enquiries to Dillistone Funeral Service. 191 South Farm Road,

MILLETTS - Rossid Willetts - Ronald
Frederick, Emerium
Professor of Greek
University of Birmingham,
died 19th February 1999.
He will be greatly missed
by family and friends.
Service and cremation at
Lodge Hill Crematorium
on Tuesday 9th March at
1 pm. Family flowers only.



OBITUARIES

KATHLEEN NOTT

Kathleen Nott, critic, novelist and poet, died on February 20 aged 94. She was born on February 19, 1905.

Ithough she published both poetry and novels, it is perhaps for her critical and philosophical works that Kathleen Nott will be principally remembered. Her training at Oxford had been in philosophy, and it was in analytical rather than creative litera-ture that her severely rational mind found its best expression.

Kathleen Nott always knew exactly what she wanted to say, and was notable for her robust attacks on ideas with which she felt herself to be in fundamental conflict. Her most fullblooded and best-known work of this type was The Emperor's Clothes (1954), in which she attacked what she saw as the religious "dogmatic orthodoxy" of T. S. Eliot, Graham Greene, C. S.

Lewis and Dorothy L. Sayers.

True, she could be as dogmatic as the dogmas she attacked, and a contemporary reviewer of The Emperor's Clothes complained: "Miss Noti would be more persuasive if she were

not so crotchety."

But this crotchetiness was of a piece with her intellectual being. There was something essentially masculine and combative about her mind. And reviewers of her verse always seemed to find themselves remarking on its "muscular" qualities.

Kathleen Cecilia Nott was born in South London, though she always liked to stress the Celtic component of her parentage: "one half Cornish, the other Irish". She was educated at Mary Datchelor School, London, and King's College London, which she left after a short period to take up an Open Exhibition at Somerville College, Ox-

The scholarship was in English literature, but with the stubbornness which was to characterise her later life she decided that there was no point in reading the subject. Philosophy appealed far more to the scientific humanism of her mental makeup and she switched to philosophy, politics and economics as soon as she arrived at Oxford.

But she found plenty to quarrel with in the philosophical diet offered, too. Alongside ethics and psychology she



Nott: as a philosopher, dogmatic, as a poet, rich and muscular

wandered, in her spare time, in the realms of Dante and French literature. At Oxford she met Christopher Bailey, whom she subsequently married. His work in electronics and, later, computers took them abroad to Germany before the war, during which he was involved with government scientific work.

During the depression years of the 1930s she worked as a social worker and clinical psychologist among the poor of the Jewish East End, and the experience gained there gave rise to her first novel, Mile End, which was published in 1938.

This was set not amid such contemporary events as the Mosley fascist marches, as might have been expected, but in an earlier era — beginning with

the dock strike of 1889 and ending in the middle of the First World War. It

too often to be in thrall to the author's formidable intellectual control and analytical precision. Nott published three more novels. The Dry Deluge (1947) was a satirical. semi-science-fiction fantasy which depicted a community retiring from the outside world and engaged in the scientific pursuit of fending off death. Private Fires (1961) was a critique of

contemporary society's ills, set amid the dilapidated and badly run lodging

was much admired for Non's grasp of

various facets of the Jewish tempera-

ment and the psychological sway of

Jewish religious lore on ordinary lives.

Reviewers acknowledged at the same

time that the creative impulse tended

is her best. Its study of the perplexities, personal failures, broodings and partial successes of the protagonist of the title achieved a subtlety and richness that eluded her more analytical works. And its account of a bid for independence from the limitations of old age and the domination of another individual — in this case the protagonist's wife — recalled Henri de Montherlant. From soon after the war Nott had been publishing verse, too. Landscapes and Departures (1947) announced a

houses of South London. Her last novel, An Elderly Retired Man (1963),

new voice: skilful and confident, able to express its thought in pliant, rhythmi-cal language, full of stark and often physical imagery. A TLS reviewer commented on her "rich, harsh and rather masculine talent".

Poems from the North (1956) demonstrated something of the same quality, but without the intensely personal feeling that had given Landscapes and

Departures its impact. Creatures and Emblems (1960) was her last volume of verse. Although it still demonstrated the familiar energy, it suggested, in its relative lack of concentration, that her true interest was now in other forms of literary self-expression. She continued to be interested in poetry, as a vice-president of the English Centre of PEN International. But her later work A Clean, Well-Lighted Place was a

critique of Swedish society, a country to which she had accompanied her husband when he went to work there. It was published in 1960, by which time their marriage had been dissolved. Subsequent critical-philosphical works were A Soul in the Quad (1969), a study of the relationship between poetry and philosophy as she experienced it in her own life and writings; Philosophy and Human Nature (1970); and The Good Want Power, subtitled An Essay on the Psychological Possibil-

ities of Realism (1977).
From 1960 Kathleen Nott threw herself into her work for PEN as editor of its Bulletin of Selected Books (now Pen International) and she was President of English PEN, 1974-75. She continued to edit Pen International until 1989. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1977. There were no children of her marriage.

PROFESSOR T. J. SAUNDERS

Trevor Saunders, Professor of Greek at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, died of cancer on January 24 aged 64. He was born on July 12, 1934.

TREVOR SAUNDERS was one of the world's leading Platonists, and one of this country's best-known classicists. As head of the classics department at Newcastle University (1976-82 and 1987-92), he presided over a period of marked change and, with the classics under general attack ensured that they survived and flourished at Newcastle. Though he had been first appointed in a very different atmosphere, he showed a remarkable ability to play all the new games without compromising his academic values. He was the kind of academic without whom universities could not function, and who are nowadays all the more necessary if such institu-tions are to remain what they should be, communities of scholars run by themselves.

Born and bred in Wiltshire, Trevor John Saunders won a scholarship from Chippenham Grammar School to University College London in 1953, and it was there that he was received into the Roman Catholic faith which sustained him throughout his life, and met the wife to whom he remained happily married for nearly forty years. After taking a first in classics, he went on to take a doctorate at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and was subsequently assistant lecturer in Latin at Bedford College, London (1959-61) and assistant lecturer and then lecturer in classics at Hull (1961-65). In 1965 he was appointed to a lectureship at Newcastle upon Tyne, where he rose to a chair in Greek in

At one time or another he Dialogues (1987), himself trans-

taught most aspects of Greek language and literature, even lending a hand in the graveyard of "Beginner's Greek". but his main scholarly interest was in Greek social, political and legal thought. Before it became fashionable, he pio-neered the study of Plato's last and longest work, the Laws. It was the subject of his PhD thesis, he translated it for Penguin Classics (1970) and devoted to it a long series of publications, culminating in his book, Plato's Penal Code



Oxford, 1991). This earned him even more widespread respect among Plato scholars, and he was gratified to find his views frequently cited and vigorously debated at two international conferences on the Laws which he attended shortly before he died.

His other main publication was a translation of and commentary on the first two books of the Politics for the Clarendon Aristotle Series (1993).

His contributions to Penguin classics made him known to a wide audience. In addition to translating Plato's Laws, he revised and re-presented T. A. Sinclair's translation of Aristotle's Politics (1981) and contributed the general introduction to Early Socratic

WILLIAM SERVAES

lating the Ion. These publications are in the more scholarly mould of the later volumes in the series, and combine meticulous scholarship with a sympathetic awareness of non-spe-cialist readers, a ready turn of phrase and a lively sense of humour. These last qualities also characterised his numerous articles and reviews.

His considerable output was not achieved at the expense of leaving the increasing burdens of administration to others. Among the many offices he held, he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1982-85), an elected member of the Senate (1977-80 and 1988-91) and of the Council (1984-87 and 1989-92). He was invariably well-prepared for committee meetings. and he put his points with a patent cogency which always commanded respect.

As a lecturer and teacher, he was admired for his lucidity and wit, and loved for the care and attention he gave to individual students. One of his chief concerns, in his last days, was that he might be letting them down.

Outside academic life, his two main passions were railways and the cinema. It was a family joke that holidays had to be arranged with the former in mind, and it was even rumoured that external examining in Wales was an excuse for visits to obsolete stations and track. This interest was wonderfully evoked at his cremation, which ended with the sound of one of his beloved steam engines pulling the last train to leave Wisburn on the

Wansbeck line. As a film buff, he had an eclectic taste, an eye for the telling visual detail, and for so gentle and kindly a man, a curious liking for some of the darkest and most violent of recent productions. He is survived by his wife.

Teresa, and two daughters.

JOHNNIE JOHNSON

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Johnnie Johnson journalist, died on February 10 aged 84. He was born on April 13, 1914.

FEW Fleet Street sub-editors can have worked on as many national titles as Johnnie Johnson. He was the chief sub at The News Chronicle until it folded in October 1960 and was later chief sub at the Financial Times, but he had

DEATHS

VILLIAMSON OSWALD

MILIAMSON GSWALD—
Ingleby Margaret Ann
Major, second daughter of
Brigadier General O. C.
Williamson Oswald and
Meta Carson of Carnales
House, C. Down died
pescefully in her sleep on
18th February, Funeral
Service at Z.00pm on 3rd
March at Hither Green
Creenstorium, Verdant

Crematorium, Verdani Lane, London SE5. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to the RNIB c/o

Francis Chappell and Sons, 5 Thomas Street, Woolwich, SE18. Tel 0181 854 0289.

IN MEMORIAM -

BAGNALL - George. Everyone you love, loves and misses you.

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also worked on the Daily Dispatch, The Times, the Daily Express, the Daily Mirror, the Daily Mail, The Sun and The Sunday Telegraph.

Johnson was also the man who saved the Press Club after it failed in 1986, reviving it as the London Press Club. The club's committee made a presentation to him at the end of last year to celebrate his fifty years as a member.

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FLATSHARE

Born in Norfolk, John le On demob in 1945, he Neve Johnson was educated at became a sub on the Sheffield Bedford Modern School and Star and then joined the News tried his hand at landscaping Chronicle via the Daily Disbefore joining the Hants & patch, Daily Express, and the Sussex County Press. He was appointed editor of the paper at the age of 23 in 1937, and he

ANNOUNCEMENTS

recommend is equally requestion the recent issue of visus at the lattish Comeans St. Petersbury Russia. Further information from 01229 463090 (eves). Far 01772 731780 or http:// www.demociev.drycom.co.uk/www.demociev.drycom.co.uk/wi

LEGAL NOTICES

NO: 01083 OF 1999 UN THE HEGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHARGERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF TARGETER

(UK) LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a

Petition was presented to Her Ma-jury's High Court of Justice on the 11th day of February 1999 for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named

Company from £250,000 to £50,000.

EEO,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be bound before the Englistrar of the Companies Court at the Joyal

1999.
Any craditor or shapsholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Oester for the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the bearing in person or by Counsel for that pur-

out to by Commer for that pur-pose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any person requiring the same by the under-mentioned solicitors upon payment of the regulated change for the same. Dated this 22nd day of Petrumy 1000

Materiop Place don SW1Y 4AU

olicitors for the above-us

Courts of Justice, The Str Courts of Justice, The Strand, Lon-don WC2A 211 on the 10th March

Daily Mirror.
The shock of the closure of the News Chronicle in October remained there until he joined 1960 was made worse by the up in the Artists' Rifles in lack of any pension provision September 1939. He was comeven for senior members of missioned into the East Lancs staff. But Johnson - who for the next 38 years helped to

LEGAL NOTICES

(All in Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pur

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CCHEEL, PURLISHING LIMITED TENDERSIGN LIMITED (All in Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HENERY GIVEN pursu-pant to Role 4.106 of the Insolven-cy Rules 1986 that on 11th Febru-ary 1999, Devid Julian Buchler of Buchler Phillips, 84 Geosvenor Stacet, London WIL 9DF and James Robert Saith of Deloitte & Toughe, Stonecutur Court, 1 Sonecutur Street, London ECAI 4TR wire appointed John Liquida-tons of the above Companies by resolutions of creditors.

researches of commun.
Notice is also given that the credi-tors of the above senad compa-sies, which are being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or be-fore 9th April 1999 to send in their thill Christian and summers,

their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or

Full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and advances of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned David Julian Buchler and James Robert Smith at 84 Generators Street, London, WIX 9DF, the John Liquidators of the said Companies, and, if so required by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution. Dated 11th February 1999
DAVID FILLAN EXCHAET and JAMES ROBERT SEUTH, John Liquidators

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ومنطقته أتجلم

organise the annual reunion of News Chronicle writers had a subbing job on the Daily Mail by Christmas. He then also freelanced at The Sun and the Daily Mirror. After the Daily Mail merged with The Sketch, however, he was once more made redundant. He spent a year on The Times and then became chief sub on the Financial Times where he remained until he

retired in 1979. He then worked as a freelance for a host of other titles. and in the early 1990s he edited Dear Sir. a magazine made up entirely of readers' letters. In 1994, aged 80, Johnson became a columnist in Lifewise. a newspaper for

retired people. Johnnie Johnson will be remembered particularly for his amazing energy in keeping alive the spirit of the Press Club. George Westropp, the chairman of the London Press Club for nine years until last month, said: "Within days of the old club closing its doors in the International Press Centre, Johnnie and some of the other members met in the 'Mucky Duck' to find a way forward. It seemed impossible to him that London could be without a Press Club, but I do not exaggerate when I say that it would not have one today without him."

He and his wife Bunty often worked seven days a week on London Press Club matters right up to his death in hospital. His devotion to the ideal of the club and his focus and energy in getting things done were remarkable. A life member of the NUJ, Johnnie Johnson was also devoted to St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, where he was a guildsman.

Johnnie Johnson is sur-vived by his wife, whom he married during the war, and by two daughters, one of hom is editor of The Hexham Courant.

William Servaes, festival administrator, died in London on January 28 aged 77. He was born at Bournemouth on June 30, 1921. BILL SERVAES was General

Administrator of the Aldeburgh Festival from 1971 to 1980. This was a difficult period in the festival's history, encompassing the time of Benjamin Britten's illness and death, and the latter years of Peter Pears's stewardship, but Servaes, a past master at combining tact and firmness. proved just the steady hand Aldeburgh needed. He was also enough of a psychologist to manage, almost without conflict, the varying moods of

the festival's founding fathers.

Servaes succeeded Stephen Reiss, who had departed in traumatic circumstances not at all of Reiss's making, one of the Aldeburgh "corpses". Servaes was recommended to Britten and Pears by the opera director Colin Graham, for many years associated with the festival. As an urbane man-about-town he was just the figure to replace the efficient but reclusive Reiss, to smooth ruffled feathers and to help to support Britten in the period of the gestation of Death in Venice. Servaes later recalled that, having just resigned from another post, he jumped out of the frying pan

At first brought in only as a caretaker, he applied for the post on a permanent basis. An invitation to the Red House. seen as a daunting prospect, proved productive: at once he formed a rapport with Britten. Immediately Servaes saw the need to raise both morale and funds, and succeeded in both objects. He also persuaded the composer to abandon grandiose plans at the Snape Maltings for a big arts centre and to concentrate on music.

William Servaes was born into a naval family and duly went to Dartmouth College. but not until he had attended a preparatory school on the Aldeburgh seafront. He then went to sea in the Fleet, serving as an officer in a destroyer during the war. He served in the Atlantic and eventually in Sicily, being

mentioned in dispatches. Invalided out after the war, he

joined the P&O Shipping Company, but when that was amalgamated with the Orient Line in the late 1950s, he left and joined the business side of an architectural firm in London. He had retired to the Old Rectory at Orford, when the call from the nearby Aldeburgh Festival came.

A product of his naval upbringing. Servaes liked to work with people who are precise and efficient, and Britten appreciated that as an attribute they shared. Servaes also understood the composer's need to be pampered, and to be kept free of unwanted worries and engagements. He quickly realised he should not impose himself in any way, never calling at the Red House unless summoned.

He never forgot the occasion when he went to the library of the Red House. Nobody seemed to be there: suddenly

Britten entered with a flourish saying "There's your opera for the next festival". It was Death in Venice. During Britten's last illness the two men grew closer, and Britten visited Servaes and his wife for lunch in Orford, where they entertained Aldeburgh habitués at the Old Rectory.

Early on Servaes recognised that Britten was not the saintly person often depicted at the time, but a man of moods, who behind the charm could be petulant, even ruthless. He also coped with the some times stormy relationship with Pears and, after Britten's death, with Pears's often wilful and dilatory direction of the festival.

In a recent book of festival recollections entitled Time and Concord (a quotation from Gloriana). Servaes recounted how the production of Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin, conducted by Rostropovich, came about at the 1979 Festival. All seemed ready, including finance, when Pears (who had been away running his own career) objected to the idea. There was consternation all round, until it was suggested that Pears should take the cameo role of Monsieur Triquet. At that he withdrew all objections. Servaes was too modest to add that his own intervention may have helped

to save the day. Servaes was engaging company. Walking along the seafront promenade, undeterred by the icy North Sea wind, he would regale his companion with the latest "family" crisis in the festival management. He was also adept, with his perfect manners and delightful smile, at welcoming artists and the public to Aldeburgh. At home his great passion was

cooking.

Bill Servaes is survived by his wife and four of their five children - two sons and two daughters.

Sending the Lord Chamberlain off stage

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at II am. MR STRAUSS (Vauxhall, Lab), moving the second reading of the Theatres Bill, said it aimed to do away with all pre-censorship of plays by the Lord Chamberlain and leave censorship to be dealt with under the laws of Only playwrights were unable to present

their work except by consent of one man. No one, no matter how sympathetic, should have such dictatorial powers. It added to the injustice when his only qualification was that he was head of the Oueen's Household. Censorship had originally been introduced

to combat political criticism, and had been used as a political weapon ever since. Among playwrights who had been disallowed from presenting in the past were Ihsen and Shaw, and much more recently Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams and John Osborne had also been prevented from having plays shown in London, although they had

appeared simultaneously with the ban in the United States. Only recently Mr Bamber Gascoigne had

come under this prohibition, and had written to The Times saying that his play was to

ON THIS DAY

February 24, 1964 **学型作业**

The Bill was passed and the Act, which abolished the Lord Chamberlain's power to censor plays, came into operation in 1968.

appear in New York. Communist leaders could be portrayed derisively, but western leaders could not for fear of giving offence. All this was ludicrous and must stop.

There was no evidence to show that uncensored plays would become obscene. Theatres would become more circumspect. Critics would certainly condemn plays which over-stepped the bounds of decency, and they would not in any case be patronized by the

MR WORSLEY (Chelsea C) said it had been claimed that the Bill would usher into the theatre a new era of freedom, excitement

and energy. My fear (he said) is that, except in the short run, the effect of this change may lead to the opposite of what is intended.

London had more theatre, better theatre, and more experimental theatre than anywhere. The House should be cautious before making too radical a change in the system under which it operated.

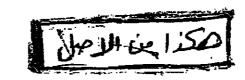
The replacement of the Lord Chamberlain with censorship by the courts might well be

harsher and more uncertain. There would be a short period of glorious freedom followed by one or two court actions perhaps ending in heavy damages. Then glorious freedom would be over and manage-

ment would be much more cautious. MR RAYMOND FLETCHER (likeston, Lab) said there was a powerful case for censorship of the arts, but in spite of this he supported the Bill. He could not view as suitable a system which in essence was born in the 1730s because a gentleman, who later became a famous novelist, upset certain

people with his prentice efforts as a dramatist.

MR MICHAEL FOOT (Ebbw Vale, Lab) said that the hardship caused to playwrights by the present system did not just arise from the prohibition of their plays. It could also affect their livelihood. It could be argued that the liberalisation of Britain owed much to the



THE TIMES TODAY

Blair begins battle for the euro

■ Tony Blair yesterday set Britain on a course that could see the end of sterling within five years.

He prepared the stage for one of the biggest political battles of the century by launching a 30-month campaign to persuade the country that it should enter the European single currency. In a marked shift of gear, the Prime Minister gave business the signal of the Government's intent to take Britain into the euro if the economic conditions are right... ..Pages 1, 10, 11

Seven die in Austrian avalanche

■ A huge avalanche swept through an Austrian ski resort, killing at least seven people and burying up to 40 others beneath thousands of tons of snow. Rescuers in the Tyrolean community of Galtür were frantically trying to reach the trapped as darkness fell. Several were pulled out alive

Lawrences set to sue Voters back high tax The family of Stephen Lawrence is expected to launch a civil action for damages against the Metropolitan Police......Pages 1, 5

MP leaked arms file

The arms-to-Africa affair dealt another blow to Robin Cook when a Labour MP on the inquiry committee resigned after admitting he had leaked a copy of its findings to the Foreign Secretary ... Page 2

Colonials honoured

The courage of millions of soldiers from India, Africa and the Caribbean who volunteered to fight for the British Empire will be saluted with commemorative gates to be erected beside Buckingham Palace... .. Page 3

Mother 'left on floor' A woman who left her mother ly-

ing on the floor for a week after she collapsed appeared in court yesterday charged with manslaughter.. ...Page 6

Profiler stalked

Professor David Canter, one of Britain's leading criminal psychologists, told a court of a campaign of harassment from his former secretary, who threatened to destroy his career Page 7

Aged home tragedy

Two retired doctors lost the will to live after being told that the Red Cross residential home they had founded 50 years ago was to close, relatives said... ..Page 7

A Labour council is to raise council tax by more than twice the maximum recommended by the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott after winning the approval of its

Library strike likely Book delivery staff at the British Library have voted for a strike which would close most reading Page 8

Ceasefire ignored

Kosovo, technically, slumbers under a ceasefire that is supposed to last during Rambouillet's negotia-tions. On Monday, however, a Serb offensive displaced more than 4.000 refugees Page 14

Ocalan faces judges Just over a week after he was cap-

tured in Nairobi, Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish separatist leader. made his first appearance before Turkish judges to be charged with treason. Page 15

UN under fire

American spies planted on a United Nations inspection team in Iraq may have had a hand in a failed military rebellion against Saddam Hussein, according to Scott Ritter, the former UN weapons monitor...

Bush for President At least half of America's Republican governors are ready to en-

dorse the White House ambitions

of George W. Bush............ Page 16

Denim no longer fits the legend Jeans, once the uniform of youth, are now a badge of middle age — and London Fashion Week provides clear evidence that among the fashionable, denim is dead. As Levi Strauss closed half its factories and axed 6,000 jobs after sales slumps this

week, the only jeans wearers at the shows were overweight

techies and forty-something men with balding heads....Page 9



Sixty-three MPs lost 324lb and gained £8.177 for Save The Children when the Commons Speaker Betty Boothroyd, left, and Weight Watchers' Julie Jameson put Westminster on a diet. Top of the class were (L-R) Menzies Campbell (14lb) Oliver Heald (28.5lb) and Harry Barnes (24.5lb)

Bank warning: The Governor of the Bank of England warned the Goverriment that there was "potential for conflict" if it forced the bank to converge British and European interest rates in preparation for EMU membership.....Page 25

Special dividend: Unilver announced a £5 billion special dividend to shareholders Page 25 Miss Attitude: Reuben Singh, the 22-year-old businessman who founded the Miss Attitude retail chain, has sold out for an estimated E22 million

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 85.3 points to 6155.2. The pound fell 1.16 cents to \$1.6111 and also dropped 0.18p against the euro to 68.16p. The sterling index fell to 10L6 from 10L9...

Motor racing: Eddie Jordan, the owner of the Jordan Formula One team, has warned Damon Hill that he must improve his performance in the coming season or risk being ...Page 48 Racing: Bint Allayl, the favourite

for the 1,000 Guineas, has been put down after suffering a leg fracture on the gallops... Rugby union: Francis Baron, the chief executive of the Rugby Football Union, has launched a devastating attack on the way the sport has been run since the beginning of the professional era..... Page 48 Goff: Nick Faldo is thrown into direct conflict with the American Tiger Woods in the Andersen World Match Play event which be-

gins today in California Page 46

☐ General: any early ram or snow in southern England and Wales will move away to leave a mostly dry and bright afternoon. The rest of England and Wales will be dry with decent surnly spells. Most of Scotland will be cold with some hazy surshine.
☐ London, SE England: overright ram clearing frem dry with some surnry spells. Light NE wind Mex 6-8C (43-46F).
☐ E Anglie, Midlands, E England, N Wholes, MY England, Lake District, Isle of Man. Central N & NE England: after any early cloud breaks up, dry with sunny spells. Light N to NE wind Mex 5-7C (41-45F).
☐ Cent S & SW England. S Walest any ear-

☐ CentS & SW England, S Wales: any ear-ir: ain or sleet cleaning then dry and bright. Moderate N wind. Max 5-8C (41-46F).

isles: wet start, becoming dire

009

002

Stepping out: Irek Mukhamedov turns 39 next week. Yet far from hanging up his ballet slippers, the Russian star is about to be handed a new full-length role, that of Don Lukewarm love: Didy Veldman's

new staging of Carmen for North-

em Ballet Theatre has so much go-

ing for it that it's a shame there isn't

more full-blooded passion to drive the ballet... Female trio: The three women of the Nualas bring a deadpan delivery and a devilish irony to the stage in their new show at London's Drill

.... Page 37 French art: Paris celebrates the genius of Mark Rothko and David Hockney in two exhibitions that are well worth a visit

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

Sean Penn, left, stars

in Terrence Malick's

long-awaited drama,

The Thin Red Line

Atien patient: "Patience is alien to me. If I were patient, I would not be a journalist on a daily newspaper; I would be writing a long and worthy book." Mary Ann Sieghart on why she is unwell......Page 17 Nigel Hawkes: Did a forgotten astronomer discover the planet Ura-

nus? Plus. the dangers of iodine deficiency... Higher ground: Despite his huge success. Tommy Hilfiger craves higher recognition.... ...Page 19

Public art: How sculpture is figuring in the plans of property develop-

South Korea: Can this Asian tiger spring back after the blow of the 1997 financial crisis?.... Pages 39-41

Nothing more aptly captures the flaws of the Kosovo negotiations than the news of Nato's supreme commander meeting with negotiators a half-hour's drive from the main talks. Nato is supposed to enforce any peace agreement that is achieved. But due to European arrogance and American weakness. General Wesley Clark and his officers have not been admitted to the talks. It's no wonder that Kosovo independence fighters, asked to surrender their arms in exchange for Nato protection, are reluctant. The Washington Post

Preview: Failing family shoe business gambles on making kinky boots for men. Trouble at the Top (BBC2, 950pm) Review: "At times it was like listening to a precocious child who thinks he's impressing the world by using needlessly long. words." Joe Joseph on Queer asPages 46, 47

Five tests for euro

Flexibility is the key to harmony and prosperity in Europe. That is the strategic prize which every British voter should keep in mind when an inflexible future is being represented, increasingly and ever more shrilly represented, as an inevitable

force

ever to

olders

MATTHEW PARRIS

This will be a battle royal. Few can have watched yesterday's clash in the Commons over the euro with out thrilling to a sense of political

PETER RIDDELL As Mr Heseltine urged, Mr Blair has to take a lead in what will be a cross-party campaign. He has picked up the euro standard, even if he is not yet waving it Page !!

SIMON JENKINS The talk is that the Prime Minister

misses Peter Mandelson. He wanders the lonely corridors mooning over his ghost, like Henry II over Becket Page 20 **BRONWEN MADDOX**

of the preoccupations which made the South very separate from the rest of the country - and sometimes still do...... ... Page 20 ALAN COREN

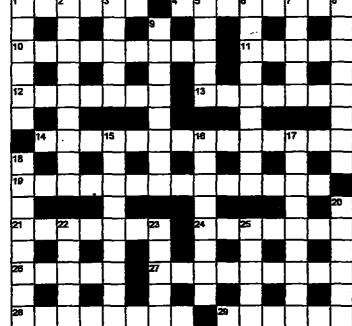
Faulkner's writing goes to the heart

What I do not know what to do about is the animal which is stuck in the branches of the acacia tree. It has been stuck there for somePage 20

Kathleen Nott, critic and novelist; Professor T. J. Saunders, Professor of Greek at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne; Johnnie Johnson, journalist; William Ser-

Prospects for police after accusation of racism; Straw's press injunction: Simon Jenkins and Turkey; Arsenal's "fair play": White Paper; Elgin Marbles; rugby...... Page 21

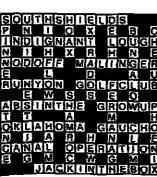
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,035



ACROSS

- I Giving publicity to one boxing? (6).
- 4 No longer keen on pure 10 Such trees are barely recognis-
- able in winter (9) 11 Tobacco fraud (5). 12 Cutlery in military store (7).
- 13 There are two points he can 14 Nick's lawyer? (6.8). 19 Wild flowers that aren't com-
- mon (5-3-6). 21 Senior accountant's holiday spot (7).
- 24 Composer goes to court for judgment (7). 26 Oil producer under pressure has a heart of stone (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21.934



- 27 Stop injured miner going into gallery (9).
- 28 Such tolerance may be a matter of degree (8).
 29 Mint that's still unwrapped?

- One habitually taking things did wrong in law (6). 2 A spinner of yarn can - true
- or false? (9). 3 A touching reminder (5).
- American in charge of the match (5).
- Guard what one says good maxim (9) 7 Nine getting half ration - he got revolutionary punishment
- 8 Well held! (8). 9 Absconding child makes mis-
- chief (6-2). 15 Rebelling against authority. gets run in, perhaps (9).

Release a shipment (8).

- Blend of main races (9) 18 Well-known line in footwear 20 Be there at the start and fin-
- 22 Pot roast? (5). 23 Played first part of hymn in a modern recording (5). 25 Check key in, as a rule (5).
- Times Two Crossword, page 48

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Full moon: March 2nd

London 5.31 pm to 6.55 am Bristol 5.41 pm to 7.05 am Edinburgh 5.35 pm to 7.15 am Manchester 5.36 pm to 7.07 am

NEWSPAPERS

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See page 19 today for your two tokens FREE SCHOOLS

■ BOOKS Psychology of

cyberspace: the Net as Heaven, Hell & Purgatory all in one

FILMS

(45-48*)

Borders, Edinburgh & Dandes, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: surny alter tosty start. Light, vecable wind. Max 3-6C (37-43F)

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: surny and frosty, rain or sleet later. Light winds become more mortestals stretchesterly. Max 4-7C

Coming dry with some sun. Light, veriable wind. Max 7-10C (45-50F).

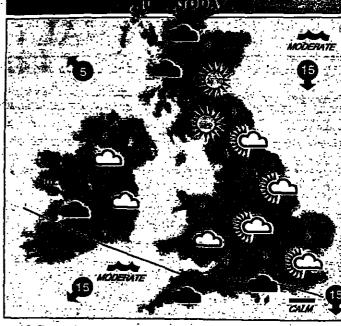
Republic of Ireland: some rain at first then marily dry. Wind S then NW, moderate. Max 8-9C (45-48F) Outlook: milder, rain spreading south

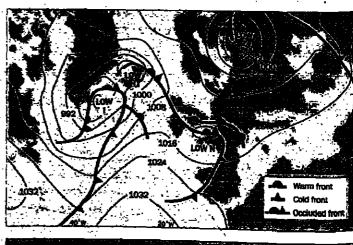
Rain in 0.04

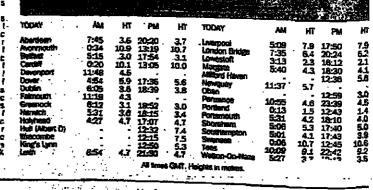
0.01 0.01 0.01 005 0 05

Bidmanner highest day mair St Marys, Isles of Scaly, 10C (50F); lowest day mair Tulloch Budge Highland, 2C (36F); highest rain. Lough Fea, Tyrone, 0.28m, highest suri Folkestone, Kent, 9 2m.

Magara Malaga Ma 7556545524884662975247664645297







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TIMES NEW STAPPERS LIMITED, 1999. Published and gentled and feetined for distribution in electricias and all other dents after feets by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 498, Vinenda Street, London E: 450, refer and all other dents after a feet feet of 171-752 5000 and also gained at Kultura Road, Proceed, Memoryado, Ltw 9970, relephone (05) 546 phone of the feet of th

Economic growth

mained positive in the last quarter of 1998, however, de-

spite the poor trade perform-

quarter GDP data showed

the annual rate of growth at

1.3 per cent, compared with

a previous estimate of 1.5

per cent. The quarterly rate

of growth remains un-

changed at 0.2 per cent. Across 1998 as a whole,

growth was placed at 2.3 per

cent, compared with a previ-

ous estimate of 2.5 per cent.

EING (ests IN BY

Business

Today

Ready for

the euro?

Single currency would

put unconverted

in a spin

New York:

NORTH SEA Off.

London close ..

\$297.45, 6287.25

Close to record high

NatWest

breaks

through

the £2bn

barrier

By CAROLINE MERRELL

million for 1997, although

those figures had been reduced by £706 million of losses from

NatWest Markets, its former

Even then the 1998 figures

were dented by a £100 million

provision for pensions mis-sell-

ing, relating to the second

stage of the mis-selling review.

Bad debt provisions in emerging markets fell by 27

per cent, reaching £2.3 billion.

tive, said: "We have reduced

our exposure to counterparties

and customers in emerging

countries over the past year. We have taken £86 million of addi-

tional specific provisions in re-

spect of customer and bank

ing plan, which included shedding 10,000 jobs, has fallen be-

Instead of completion by next year as was planned, the restructuring will not be com-

pleted until 2001. He empha-

sised that the bank was continuing to bring down costs. He said: "NatWest's costs in 2000

will be lower than in 1997."

On possible acquisitions, Mr Wanless said that at

present the bank prefered to concentrate on developing its

There are plans in place

"We have not seen anything that in our view is value from

The group proposed a final dividend of 24.2p, giving a to-tal dividend of 36p, up 11.8 per

cent on the previous year. The shares reacted positively climb-

Tempus, page 2

around the group in terms of

each of the individual businesses to improve efficiency and ef-

loans in Asia and Russia." Mr Wanless did admit that the banking group's restructur-

hind schedule.

own businesses.

he added.

ing 45p to £13.19.

Derek Wanless, chief execu-

nvestment banking arm.

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24 1999

George fears conflict if Bank is forced to converge rates

BRITAIN recorded its larg-

est trade deficit for nine years in 1998 as the Asian

crisis took a huge toll of ex-

port performance, data pub-ished yesterday show. The

monthly data for January.

also published yesterday.

suggest there is no respite

in sight for exporters, with the non-EU deficit hitting a new record of £2.21 billion.

Across the full year, the

overall trade in goods defi-

cit ballooned from £11.6 bil-

lion to £20.6 billion.

ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EDDIE GEORGE, the Gov-mor of the Bank of Eng-land, yesterday warned the Government that there was potential for conflict" if it forced the Bank of England to converge British and European interest rates in preparation for membership of

Mr George also told the Treasury Select Committee that there are still considerable risks to the health of the global economy with the "extraordi-nary buoyancy" of the US economy in particular vulnerable to a substantial slowdown.

However, the Governor rejected a claim from DeAnne Julius, an independent member of the Monetary Policy committee who was also appearing before the committee, that the Bank may have made a mistake in raising rates during the first part of last year. He claimed that the Bank's sudden shift in policy last autumn was driven by a "pretty dramat-



Eddie George at the committee yesterday

Mr George's comments were later echoed by Alan Greenspan. Chairman of the Federal Reserve, who gave warning that although the US economy was performing "admirably" a tightening labour market and financial turmoil abroad posed

big risks to US growth. Dr Greenspan questioned whether US shares were overvalued. International stock markets, however, largely shrugged off Dr Greenspan's comments with the Dow Jones industrial firm after Monday's 200-point gain. In London, the FTSE 100 recorded its second-highest clos ing level to date, climbing 85.3 points to 6,155.2. French and German markets also made

ing ahead of the publication of Government's National Changeover Plan, left MPs in no doubt that the Government still faces formidable obstacles to ioining the euro. He insisted that the Bank could find it difficult to continue to meet the Govern-

substantial gains. Mr George, who was speak-

ment's inflation target if it was also obliged to reduce interest rates towards European levels. "I would think the potential

for conflict was quite high," Mr George said. Although the Bank of England has made substantial cuts in interest rates in the past few months, British rates still stand at 5.5 per cent, compared with just 3 per cent in the eurozone.

The Governor said the Bank had no plans in place for a changeover to the euro and

truth" in claims that the Bank is already trying to reduce rates to European levels. "If the Government has that objective they have not told me,"

Mr George said. However, he admitted that the fact that both the Bank and the European Central Bank are pursuing policies for stable inflation should "in time bring a measure of convergence."

He said switching from the current target measure of inflation to the differently calculated European measure could

NATWEST brought further cheer to the upbeat British banking sector yesterday when it reported profits that broke through the £2 billion level for the first time. Pre-tax profits for 1998 exceeded City expectations, reaching £2.1 billion against £975

M A M J J A S O N D J F

prove "intensely damaging" to the credibility of the Bank's battle against rising prices.

British inflation calculated using the European measure, which does not include items such as owner-occupied housing, stands at just 1.6 per cent compared with 2.6 per cent for the target measure and 2.4 per cent for overall inflation. Commentary, page 27

LINKS

Unilever to give 'no use' £5bn to shareholders

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch food and soap company, launched the largest cash return to shareholders yesterday in the form of a £5 billion special dividend. Niaîl FitzGerald, Unilever's chief executive, admitted that the company had no use for the cash which amounts to 10 per cent of the total market

MOON TODAY

value of the company.

The payout, which amounts to 66.13p per share, is almost equal to the £4.7 billion proceeds of the sale to ICI of the

Halifax investors protest at windfall

AHALIFAX shareholders proested yesterday at the way the bank's £1.5 billion capital repatriation programme had been presented as a windfall (Richard Miles writes).

investors will receive a cash payment averaging E217 in June, but many argue this will be more than offset by a corresponding reduction in the number of shares they hold. Halifax plans to swap 37 shares in a new bolding company for 40 of the existing flotation stocks.

specialty chemical businesses

Mr FitzGerald said the company had promised to distribute the proceeds to investors if no big acquisitions were made within two to three years. How-ever, he said that Unilever had been unable to find deals that would generate value for shareholders and he blamed the market for overpricing assets.

He said: We don't need the money. Management ego creates great pressure to do deals

and we have looked very carefully at target companies. We believe that the values attached to many businesses are exces-

sive. It is not sustainable." Unilever's mammoth cash handout came as the company revealed a pre-tax profit, at constant exchange rates and excluding disposals, of £3.3 billion, an increase of 41 per cent over 1997. Operating margins move into double digits and the total ordinary dividend is increased by 27 per to 10.7p.

The company managed just 1 per cent sales growth in Europe due to the cool summer which hurt ice-cream sales but the company has restored Persil to lead position in the UK thanks to the success of its new laundry tablet. Unilever's US profits gained 14 per cent with strong growth in food and personal care products but the Asian crisis forced the company to sacrifice growth to protect margins and market shares. Unilever's cash distribution

other companies, including Royal Dutch/Shell which has strug-gled to find a tax-efficient mechanism for returning capital to shareholders. Under Dutch law, taxpaying shareholders could suffer a levy of up to 60 per cent on a cash handout. Unilever's novel solution is the issue of a preference share to Dutch taxpaying investors which will have a five-year life. However, the decision not to do a share buyback could penalise US investors who account for more than 20 per cent of Unilever. Under US rules

> Commentary, page 27 Tempus, page 28

any capital payment other

come and is therefore taxable.



Niall FitzGerald promised to distribute proceeds of the sale of its specialty business to investors

er of the two companies. To-

Singh makes £22m with Attitude

By Fraser Nelson

REUBEN SINGAT, the 22-yearold businessman who founded the Miss Attitude retail chain, has sold out for an estimated Gary Klesch, the vulture fund investor who took over the Knickerbox chain in January merge the two companies.

Mr Singh, who is said to be worth £50 million, said he intends to use the money to set up his own venture capital fund which will buy media companies. He said: "I've done retail. I've been there, seen that, got the T-shirt. Now it's time for media - and if an yone has any offers, I'm here. He opened Miss Attitude in Manchester's Arndale Centre while he was studying for his A-

40 outlets in the UK, and last made a profit of £1.5 million. The exact value of the deal has not been disclosed, but Mr Singh said he "would not have picked up the phone" to Mr Klesch if he had offered the £8 million price tag City analysts

levels four years ago. It now has

were suggesting. Mr Singh is a director of six other companies, and runs most of them with his 20-yearold brother Bobby. Mr Klesch runs Klesch Capital Partners, which buys distressed companies cheaply and restores them to financial health. He has bought Miss Attitude to help to turn round Knickerbox.

BSkyB opens talks with Canal

By Raymond Snoddy MEDIA EDITOR

BSKYB, the satellite television group, has opened explor-atory talks with Canal Plus,

Europe's largest subscription television company. While talks are believed to be at an early stage, looking at

a wide range of options, they

are understood potentially to include a full £14 billion merg-

gether, the two groups would be the dominant pay-TV play-er in Europe in terms of scale although they do not compete directly in any market.

BSkyB, in which News International, the owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake, is based wholly in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Previous attempts to break into continental Europe, particularly in

Germany, have come to nothing. Yesterday BSkyB shares rose by 3.5 per cent to close at 536%p, up 18%p. BSkyB declined to com-

ment last night but Canal Plus, which has a total of 11 million subscribers in Europe, acknowledged that there had been talks. Any merger would inevitably attract close scrutiny from Brussels. Comvan Miert has taken a particu-lar interest in issues of dominance in new media.

A merger would also involve football and sports rights issues. BSkyB has made a recommended £563 million offer for Manchester United, which is being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Canal Plus owns a top French club,

Think about it! Corby, less than 30 minutes from the M1 and A1(M) via its very own purpose-built A14 dual carriageway. Over 30 million customers within a 100 mile radius. Europe and the World beyond could not be more accessible. No wonder we say Corby is at the Live Centre of England. Move into low cost industrial and office accommodation and start profiting from our famous fast-

track Planning Zones. You won't be the first - 1,000 businesses are already flourishing here - and you certainly won't be the last!

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199

At The Live Centre Control

Internet share frenzy fails to interest Gates

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BILL GATES, the world's richest man, invests none of his money in Internet stocks and instead sticks to much safer government and corporate bonds.

The Microsoft founder, who is worth close to \$100 billion (£62 billion) owns \$10 billion in bonds and only \$500 million in shares. Another \$1 billion of his vast fortune is invest-

ed in private ventures such as proper-

The biggest part of his wealth is still tied up at his software company. He owns a 20 per cent stake in the \$400 billion business. But for several years, Mr Gates has been selling Microsoft shares to diversify his invest-

The fund manager he picked to carry out his investing is Michael Larson, a complete unknown until now. Mr Larson, 39, har ...mplete discretion over Mr Gates's fortune, making him possibly the single most powerful investor on Wall Street.

There are only two hedge funds that are bigger in America, Soros and Tiger Management, both of which employ hundreds of people. Mr Larson was hand-picked by Mr Gates aiter a careful interview process during which Mr Gates checked each one of Mr Larson's 13 references.

His title is chief investment officer of a company called BGI — Bill Cares

Investments. Mr Gates and Mr Larson hold meetings every six weeks and discuss investment ideas and market conditions by e-mail.

The Microsoft founder does not interfere directly with Mr Larson's decisions or the timing of his buying and

Last year the fund manager justified his position as banker to the world's richest man by outperforming the Dow Jones industrial average

In his first ever interview, he told Fortune magazine about a number of his investments. He holds short-term government

bonds as well as some junk bonds and emerging market debt. In the equity part of the portfolio he holds telecommunications companies Liberty Media, TCI, Cox and USA Networks. He also owns a stake in Berkshire Hathaway, the investment company of Warren Buffett, a friend of Mr

Warning on profit hits OAI

Shares in Oxford Asymme try International (OAI) fell more than 10 per cent as the fast-growing supplier of chemicals to the pharmaceutical industry warned investors that it expects flat profits this year.

OAI shares fell back to 499p from 558p yesterday. Sales, up 47 per cent to £14.9 million last year, are increasing rapidly, but the number of growing pains.

Merant decline

Merant, the software solutions company, reported net profit at \$5.2 million (£3.2 million) for the three months to January 31 (\$10.8 million). The shares rose 5p to 146/sp. Revenues were \$95.7 million (\$100.9 mil-lion). Earnings per share were 4 cents (7 cents).

Pearson

We have been asked to point out that the Extel business that Pearson has sold to Primark for £19 million does not include Exshare which generates about 75 per cent of revenues of the Extel business Pearson acquired in 1994.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Şelis
Australia S	2.62	2.45
Austra Sch	21.23	19.57
Belgum Fr	62.51	57.55
Canada S	2.533	2.345
Сургиз Сур £	0.8351	0.8236
Denmark kr	11.52	10.63
Egypt Fintend Mikk	5.71	5.10
Fintand Mikk	9.29	8.54
France Frances	10.11	9.33
Germany Dm	3.039	2.797
Greece Dr	501	462
Hone Kong S	13.32	12.12
iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17900	12900
ireland Pt	1.2126	1.1235
57361 Shk	6.89	6.23
1128y Lera	3022	2785
Japan Yen	210.49	192.95
Melta Nethertds Gld	0.669	0.610 3.136
New Zeoland \$	3,431 3,14	2.90
HEW ZEGEN SHALL	13.33	12.39
Norway Kr Portugal Esc	307.34	285.31
S Africa Rd	10.58	9.72
Spain Pta	256.15	237.36
Sweden Kr	13.88	12.78
Switzerland Fr	2.499	2.281
Turkey Lan	585953	547008
USA S	1.719	1_576
V	7.173	

Wimpey sets strong growth targets as profit rises 35%

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE WIMPEY, the housebuilder, has set itself ambitious targets to lift UK revenues by 50 per cent over the next five years and to double US revenues.

The targets were set out as Wimpey reported a 35 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £85 million in 1998 (£63.1 million). Yesterday's results were the last to be delivered by Joe Dwyer, Wimpey's long-serving chairman. Executive con-

War chest

at Irish

Permanent

By RICHARD MILES

IRISH PERMANENT, which

has agreed a merger with

Irish Life to form the Repub-

lic's third-largest financial

services company, said yester-

day it had a war chest of more

than IrE300 million (E260 mil-

lion) to spend on acquisitions.

Reporting a 21 per cent

rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to IrE66.7 million. Roy Doug-

las, chief executive, said the

group could spend between ir £300 million and Ir £400

million on a deal. He also

confirmed interest in buying

the state-owned ICC Bank,

likely to be privatised later

Permanent. the country's

top mortgage lender, said it ex-

pected to complete its Ir £2.8 bil-

lion merger with Irish Life by

the end of April, bringing it closer to market leaders Allied

Irish Banks and the Bank of

The company said total new

lending in 1998 leapt 38 per

cent to Ir £1.5 billion. Net inter-

rise of 13.4 per cent.

this year.

ireland.

troi of the group is passing to Dennis Brant, chief executive. He said he wanted to see the operating profit margins in one of its two UK housing companies - called Wimpey Homes - rise from 7.8 per cent to at least 10 per cent in two years. Last year margins in that segment widened 16

per cent to 6.7 percent. Wimpey's second UK division. McLean Homes, already has operating profit margins of 11.4 per cent. Mr Brant said he wanted to maintain these

paring to extend its US operations, which trades as Mornson Homes, by opening three

new sales offices in Florida. Helped by the release of US tax losses from previous years. Wimpey's earnings grew 46 per cent to 17.6p a share in the year just ended. The final dividend is 3.9p. making 6p for the year (5.7p). The shares rose 2%p to 133p yesterday. Beazer, a rival housebuild-

er, also unveiled financial results yesterday. But in stark contrast to the strength shown

15 per cent decline in profits. blaming delays in several planning applications for the fall. Beazer earned £26.6 million

in the six months to December 31 (£31.4 million). The planning delays meant Beazer had fewer completed properties available for sale. It also increased the amount of money Beazer had tied up in working capital.

However, Dennis Webb, chief executive, insisted that the planning problems had only delayed building work and left the company in better

reported that their average selling prices increased, but attributed the rises to a change in the mix of properties sold, rather than because of any substantial growth in comparable selling prices. Both firms are selling more

higger houses. Earnings at Beazer declined 16 per cent to 6.7p a share. The interim dividend, however, was lifted 9 per cent to 2.5p. The shares fell 24p to 1664p.

Tempus, page 28

Mortgage protection boost

By Paula Hawkins

THE Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Association of British Insurers (ABI) yesterday announced mini mum specifications for mortgage payment protection.

The move is intended to encourage more homeowners to insure themselves against the

threat of illness or redundancy. Under the guidelines, all accident, sickness and unemployment (ASU) policies will pay out after a maximum of 60 days and for no less than 12 months after that. Any changes to the cost or conditions of policies can only be made with six months' notice. The standards will allow "fewer automatic exclusions for medical condi-

tions", according to the CML. There is also improved cover for self-employed people or those in part-time employ ment. Contract workers will be able to make claims provided they have worked for the same employer for a year. while the self-employed are covered provided they have filed for bankruptcy and have registered for the Job Seeker's

Allowance. The guidelines take effect from July I for new policies and July I, 2001, for existing policies.

First Technology in £89m US deal

FIRST TECHNOLOGY announced the \$145.1 million (E89 (million) acquisition of America's Control Devices in a deal that unites two of the world's leading suppliers of vehicle safety products. The acquisition will be partly funded by a one-for-four rights issue of new First Technology shares at 320p each, raising £37.6 million. Existing shares fell 64p to 370p yesterday. Control Devices, whose shares are listed on Nasdaq, was the subject of a management buyout from GTE in 1996. In the last financial year it earned net income of \$7,9 million, up from \$5.9 million in the previous 12 months.

A number of shareholders of Control Devices, including senior managers, will subscribe for new First Technology shares worth £4,9 million. First Technology, which is capital ised at about £180 million; said yesterday that trading was most satisfactory, with group sales from continuing opera-tions exceeding last year's levels. More than 90 per cent of First Technology's sales are made outside the UK.

Croda dividend move

CRODA INTERNATIONAL, the speciality chemicals group, yesterday said that its 1998 pre-tax profit would be in line with general market expectations, which stand at about £32 million. The company also said it would bring forward payment of its final dividend of 6.8p from July i to April 1. This will enable Crods to class the payment as a foreign income dividend, which brings tax advantages that are due to be abolished on April 6. The shares rose

Allied merger nears

ALLIED LEISURE, the ten-pin bowling and Burger King restaurants operanor, confirmed that it is in merger talks with European Leisure, the nightclubs and cue sports group. As The Times reported last week, the two are discussing a nilpremium merger, although analysis expect Allied's directors to control the new board. A deal could be announced next week. The market welcomed the news, with Allied's shares gaining 2p to 271/2p and European closing 1/4p higher at 70p.

Kvaerner into the red

KVAERNER, the Anglo-Norwegian shipping and engineering group, reported pre-tax losses of 1.35 billion crowns (£105 million) against profits last year of 1.51 billion crowns, sending the company's shares tumbling by more than 6 per cent on the Oslo bourse. Kjell Almskog, president, said: "These unsatisfactory results reflect very negative business developments for Kvaerner in 1998. The year was marked by decline in our main markets and a change of management and of priorities."

Vymura prospects lift

VYMURA, the wallpaper manufacturer, saw its shares rise 10%p to 73kp as it reported a good start to 1999. Pre-tax profit for the year ended December 31 was £3.2 million, down from £5.1 million, but ahead of market expectations. Turnover was £40.6 million (£41 million). Andrew Garety, the chairman, said that sales in January were alread of bridget, and he expects "opportunities for sales growiti. Earnings per share were 9.4p (14.2p) and the final dividend of 4p (3.8p) gives a total for the year of 5.7p (5.4p).



John Randall leaves with a £454,000 payoff package. He had been at MFI for 20 years

Randall ousted at MF

JOHN RANDALL has been ousted as chief executive of MFI, leaving the company af-ter 20 years with a £454,000 payoff package. His departure was announced as the troubled furniture retailer issued another profits warning (Fraser Nelson writes).

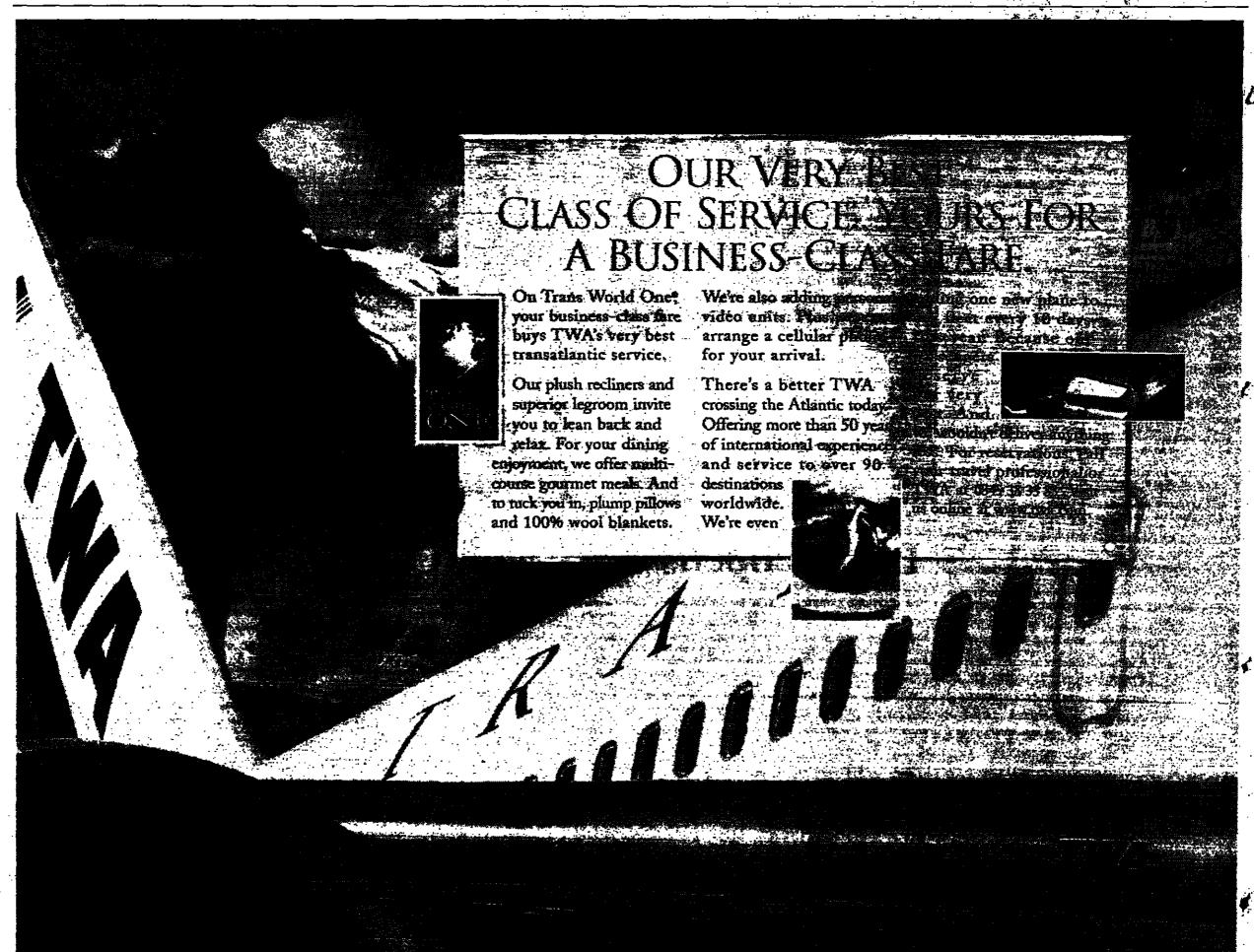
est margins improved, as did its other income revenues. Derek Hunt, chairman, told Cost-income ratio fell to 51.5 Mr Randall that the board per cent from 54.8 per cent. Perhad lost confidence in him. manent will pay a total dividend of Iri9.5p per share, a John Hancock, the US direc-

the new chief executive -- two months after joining MFI as a non-executive director. Mr Hunt, who is due to re-

tire as chairman in September, said he may now be persuaded to stay on to oversee the changeover. He said: "I could not bear to leave the company without seeing it in the right hands."
Mr Hancock said be will be

looking at a range of reforms, and has not ruled out droptor of WH Smith, is to become ping the MFI brand name in

an attempt to take it upmarket. Mr Randall will receive £302,000 due from his 12-month contract and £152,000 in accrued pension payments. His share options, exercisable at 115p and 120p, are worthless now 36p, sliding lp yesterday. MFI said its underlying sales in the past four months are 14 per cent lower than last time.



Pextends. Mack as Mgs rise

4

into the single currency. They have responded politely, but firm-

ble in that way. They are already investing heavily in preparing

for the certainty that the year 2000 will arrive. They have

coped perfectly happily with the

But banks, as other business-

es, are used to dealing with for-

eign currencies. That does not

lead inevitably to them giving up

their own. Mr Blair made much yesterday of the fact that 86 per cent of large retailers have suppli-ers in the eurozone and 44 per

cent of them are planning to pay those suppliers in euros. This

was, apparently, seen as demon-strative of the fact that we are al-most in euroland. But as Mr Blair should know from the

brand names that his children

parade across their chests, many British retailers also have suppli-ers in the United States. It is a

fair bet that plenty of those are paid in dollars. Such transac-

tions have been going on happily

for many years and without bene-fit of a National Changeover

The debate about the single

advent of the euro.

that they do not intend to gam-

Yony Blair insisted yester-

day that he was not signal-ling a change of policy, merely a change of gear, in Brit-ain's move towards euroland. If

he changes gear with his foot on the accelerator, as he appears to be advocating. Cherie and the children might be well advised to

With this gear change, he ad-

mits to advocating government spending on systems which may

never be needed. What is more,

he calls on business to do the

same. Businessmen, even those

who want to see Britain's earliest

possible entry into euroland, should ignore such exhortations.

Shareholders would have every

reason to feel aggrieved if their companies started to invest now

in preparation for something

which may never happen. Until

there is a commitment to Britain joining the single currency, it

would be foothardy for organisa-

tions to pay for the preparations that would then be necessary.

Even Mr Blair in his most presi-dential gear has accepted that there must be a referendum be-

fore that can happen, albeit that

the economic tests he and Chan-

cellor Gordon Brown have for-mulated are regarded as suffi-

ciently flexible as to constitute no

Britain's banks have already

been made aware of the Govern-

ment's view that they should be

BG, the company which owns

Transco. Britain's gas pipeline

company, is developing plans to create a £1 billion business out of Transco's operations

and maintenance activities in

order to shift a large part of

BG's business out of the con-trol of the industry regulator.

The restructuring of Transco would separate the

management of its £12 billion of pipeline assets from the

operational side of the busi-

ness, opening the door to com-

petitive tendering and sub-

contracting in a similar way to

how Railtrack runs the rail-

iten the screw on

making ready for Britain's entry

take the bus in future.

year payout of 8.op.

ways. Ultimately, the operations could be demerged. Philip Hampton, finance director of BG said the plan was to generate value by creating a competitive business which would escape regulatory control. "The regulator con-

costs but if you get more trans- its competitive edge. However,

he denied that it was a prefude to a demerger. BG's upstream was forced to write down its investment in KomiArctic Oil. a Russian joint venture, by 58 million, leaving profits of £31 million for the quarter. Production was up 18 per cent but the

Assets are still fully priced."

Tempus, page 28

ABP extends buyback as earnings rise

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

ASSOCIATED British Ports Holdings has extended its E100 million share buyback by £50 million and says property sales could finance further in-

Sir Keith Stuart, chairman, said vesterday that, though it would take another ten years tofully dispose of its substantial property portfolio, shareholder value would be fully recognised by such a move as it was property investments that were responsible for ABP's poor share price performance. With ABP stock trading at about the same level as five years go. Sir Keith said the market had failed to understand its property divisions.

His comments came after ABP announced a 4.6 per cent increase in 1998 pre-tax earnings to £110.2 million, which failed to move its shares in a generally buoyant trading day on the market. Though the results were in line with market expectations, the shares closed 3p lower at 262p. A final dividend of 5.75p takes the fullyear payout to 10.25p (9p).

The company's ports division managed a 9 per cent rise in operating profit to £126.7 mil-



Stuart: property sales

ports were offset by higher vol-umes of grain, vehicles and petroleum products. Sir Keith said ABP was exposed to the impact of the Asian economic crisis on many British exports but profit margins had held up.

of ABP's port contracts. vision, which generates rental income, reported a 14 per cent rise in operating profit to £16.7 million. Earnings from property development, which indudes land sales, were 5 per

He did not envisage increased

price pressure this year, partly because of the long-term nature The property investment di-

ing partners for its treatment for osteoarthritis, which has completed a phase II trial that suggested it was more effective than an existing therapy. Losses for the six months to November 30 were £534,000 (£557,000 loss).

day consider a five trillion lire

cash call on its shareholders to

create a war chest to finance its

bid. The capital raising is like-

ly to be underwritten by Bell, a

Luxembourg company and 13

per cent shareholder that is

Regulator blocks Olivetti

cent higher at £6.8 million.

BY CARL MORTISHED

OLIVETTI reacted angrily yesterday to the decision by Consob, the Italian regulator, to reject its E36 billion bid for Telecom Italia. The ambitious conglomerate is now scrambling to put together a firm offer in order to pre-empt any attempt by the privatised utility to erect defences to a takeover.

Olivetti accused Consob yesterday of reaching a decision without consultation. It said:

"Consob's decision has been reached having received only comments of Telecom Italia and not those of Olivetti."

The decision by Consob, the Italian stock exchange regulator, to reject the bid has dramatically increased the pressure on Olivetti. Franco Bernabe, chief executive of Telecom Italia, is expected to reveal Telecom's industrial strategy later this week, an opportunity to wrongfoot Olivetti's bid strategy.

The board of Olivetti will to-

controlled by Roberto Colaninno. Olivetti's chief executive. The underwriting will fuel the concern of Telecom Italia shareholders that a minority of Olivetti investors will end up controlling Europe's thirdlargest telephone company.

Not so fast, prime minister



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

ness should not be bamboozled into believing that it is. Neither should the Department of Social Security or other government departments be spending taxpayers' money on false assumptions. The indications are that the public sector still has enormous work to do in eradicating the millennium bug. That is where systems expenditure and effort should be concentrated until our entry into euroland is agreed.

Eddie's confusion costs us too much

ddie George is one of those fellows who knows so much and yet so little. In humble mood yesterday, the Governor confessed to the Commons Treasury Select Committee that he found the continued strength of sterling against the euro difficult to explain. As he was speaking the euro fell to its

lowest ever against our threatened currency, about 67.8p.

Allowing for conversion from marks or francs, that is the sort of exchange rate that in 1998 brought the biggest UK trade deficit with the rest of the world since 1989. That was the year that our economy was overhearing ahead of a painful recession in-duced by monetary policy. Few would contend that the

UK economy was overheating in 1998. Rather, it just managed to reach the end of December with-

out stopping altogether.
Others might not find the euro's weakness against the pound so hard to explain. Even after the latest Bank of England interest rate cut and before the expected cut by the European Central Bank in a month's time there is still a 2.5 point gap between the ECB's euro rate of 3 per cent and the UK base rate of per cent.

Currency trends are about ex-

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

POWER generators face new restric-tions on their ability to increase the price of electricity before an overhaul

Callum McCarthy, the electricity

process so that price spikes will be mini-

mised. There is a fear that, before the

and gas regulator, yesterday set our proposals to streamline the bidding

of the market.

Generators spiked

pectations rather than absolutes. Even DeAnne Julius, the dove who flies sorties from the ark of the Monetary Policy Committee, argued that UK monetary policy was now in the neutral zone of 4-6 per cent. If that means anything, it is that any rate below 4 per cent would be a deliberate attempt to get a slumping economy moving and stop prices falling. And that is not likely. The Governor provided the oth-

er side of the explanation for the euro's hardly sparkling debut: America's economy has been more robust than expected while that of continental Europe has been weaker.

Expectations being what counts, euroland's failure to live up to them is more damaging than the UK's comparatively, but expectedly, slower growth. The implication for any trader is that UK short-term rates will remain higher than those obtainable on euro funds for the foreseeable fu-

pletely reorganised next year, the gener-

ators will indulge in greater manipula-

posing a price cap. John Battle, the Ener-

gs and Industry Minister, said: "We are

determined that customers should not

suffer as a result of the ability of genera-

save yourself £30,055. spend five minutes reading this ad.

fors to manipulate pool prices."

for, than they are already accused of, The plans are designed to cut prices be-fore the market is changed without imture, probably by a comfortable margin. And what that means for anyone who has to compete with suppliers overseas is that

life is not going to get any easier. A short-term benefit to exporters is not, however, a strong enough reason for a long-term move into euroland.

Pulling all the right Unilevers

iall FitzGerald, who en-thuses over the single as he warns of the perils of the millennium bug, was the hero of the stock market yesterday having admitted that his shareholders could probably use £5 billion better than he could.

Institutional investors applaud such honesty rather than regarding it as evidence of a lack of imagination. But then they too dem-onstrate a singular lack of imagi-nation with what to do with the cash. As the FTSE 100 shot up yesterday, the 250 barely moved. Fund managers do not want to look beyond the majors, so if Footsie companies insist on handing them back their cash, the

By OLIVER AUGUST

RICHARD GRASSO, chairman of the

New York Stock Exchange, yesterday

suggested that the world's biggest stock market could soon be open for

trading almost 24 hours a day. In a bid

to fight off competition from other mar-

kets, the NYSE is expected to lengthen

Mr Grasso said: "It is not unreasona-

trading hours in June next year.

chances are that it will not be long before it is piled back into the same stocks.

The proceeds from selling its speciality chemicals business to ICI have been sitting in Unilev-

er's pockets for a couple of years. There have been acquisitions during that time but not the big deal that the gossips had advocated. This special dividend does not preclude an opportunistic pounce by Mr FitzGerald, but it has enhanced his reputation in the City. His former colleague. Charles Miller Smith, who hand-ed him the £5 billion has not fared so well. Far from handing cash back to shareholders. ICI is the proud possessor of a specialty chemicals business, but may be forced to cut its dividend in the next 12 months.

Hancock's hour

NYSE open all hours

HOW far-sighted of John Hancock to have accepted a non-executive directorship of MFI last year. Now that the dismal performer has dispensed with the services of its chief executive. Mr Hancock can slide smoothly into the role without any head-hunt-ing fees. But has John Randall's abrupt departure been enough to preserve Derek Hunt's reign as chairman? If he survives past his professed September retirement date, it will be proof that Mr Hunt is made of tougher stuff than some MFI furniture.

5am and close at midnight." Currently trading is restricted to 9.30am to 4pm.

Companies on the New York ex-

change are being wooed by the Nasdau

market, which is expanding quickly at-

ter the merger with the American Ex-

change, the third biggest US exchange

Dealers on Nasdaq trade electronical

ly while the New York Stock Exchange

still features open outer, trading.

BG set to avoid regulator with Transco revamp

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

parency, there is no longer an argument about what the costs should be."

BG also announced plans to merge the management of its upstream exploration and international gas businesses under the leadership of Frank Chapman, exploration director. At the same time, BG revealed a rise in fourth-quarter pre-tax profit from £373 mil-lion to £426 million and a final dividend increase of 7.5 per cent to 4.3p, making a full-

Transco's operating profits surged from £253 million to £444 million, thanks to colder weather which helped to boost volumes by 4 per cent, offsetting a 1997 price cut of 13 per cent.

David Varney, BG's chief executive said that the merger of the upstream exploration arm and BG's international growth was more than offset

by falling oil and gas prices. Mr Varney sought to damp en speculation that BG was plotting a bid for either Lasmo or Enterprise, the two oil explorers currently in merger discussions. Referring to the option of growth by acquisition, he said:

Mr Hampton said that shifting Transco's operational businesses out of regulatory con-trol could create scope for profitable divestments. They represent cash expenditure of about El billion including employment costs of £600 million.

Admiral

shares on

the slide

Shares of Admiral, the IT serv-

ices group, fell 9 per cent after

the company reported results that failed to satisfy analysts' expectations. Admiral report-

ed a 34 per cent rise in pre-tax

profits for the year to Decem-

ber 31 from £17.5 million to

£23.5 million on sales of £147

million, up 26 per cent. Nor-

malised earnings per share rose from 17.8p to 25.2p. The

company said it would pay a final dividend of 2.4p (2p), bring-

ing the total for the year to 3.5p. up from 2.9p. Shares of the company fell from £14.17's to £12.90. Tempus, page 28

Eidos Net service

Eidos, the video games pub-

lisher behind titles such as

Tomb Raider and Michael

Owen's World League Soccer

vesterday became the latest

company to offer a free Inter-

net access service. The service

offers multiple e-mail address-

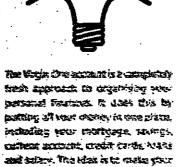
es. 20MB of personal web

space, a news service, and tele-

phone support charged at 50p

KS Biomedix is seeking market-

Biomedix search



Externe and savings mark to redece

your bold delt and the attraction of

extenses have been too here. However, in

विकास गाउँ के विद्यार इस्ताहर करने क्रमाहर you need to better - anding how EMERGED up to the ONE I store at some विकास दिए प्या जिला प्राप्ति था के विका विकास केराब अंगर भारतन प्रथम होनेस्थान नेपानी हा का रेक्सिन अवस्थानका स्थान कर में स्टार्ट है profes, a reposit the world years are معتديم والمتعارض والمحراب المهاية المعارض we ruse the order, for you get the करित केष्ट्रवृत्तिका कार्याक्ष्मिक व्यवस



设设品等企业的基本企业的 के कि हरते के पिर विदेश एक स्थित निकृति तार्राज्य निभवन विकास क्रांतृकोण्ड दक्षांत्रे ्रेन एक हैं हैंदर ब्रह्माई के क्रेक्ट्र स्ट्राइ mother and there's as pressed in सार्थ ग्लामानाकारंड स्थान पाडारी, प्रकेश री एक अंद नेवार्ड नेपार्ट केंद्रावर्ट ने केंद्रावर्ट केंद्रावर्ट ने केंद्रावर्ट केंद्रावर्ट ने केंद्रावर्ट केंद्रावर्ट তি কুই কিছু কৰি পৃথিৱা ভিজ্ঞা কৰেছে উপ্পৰ্ভাৱিত feeting flash. You can also get vive hands on the oquity if your boxe प्रकार के क्रिकेट होंगे के अधिक के किए कि with an and angularities of theory. विकास के किया है जिस की किया कि विकास की धि र ेक्स र वर्ष क्लिक्स है होते.



the benefit of an the month hee bay light nort strongtened take **Peu seus Meas**ance or pource in THE SE THE COURSE OF PROPERTY ASSETS. ्राप्तिक विकास स्थापित Principle State resource round considerate



For example, if you had an armust ध्येशक के विकास के देखें प्राथम के करने the production of the matter and the parties poet mages into your Day according you world replay a 25 year montgage **वर्ग देवटे,प्रेर**के हैं कालगरित देवतीह - प्रशांतिह times \$4,700 H on sortial pay the cit **उने अंदार कर्जिट प्रत्येत वृद्ध एक विस्त** of it field in your ecrosors death year. the fear world be travel ? veers to poniti enter sangua 26,055



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see what you could save. it might just be worth a call.

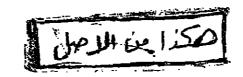


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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MOPTCAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON it. Call us for an essential guide. You must be aged 18 or over. Life insurance is required. Your Virgin One account must be repaid by the time you retire. The rate of interest depends on the amount borrowed compared to the value of your home. For example, if you borrowed CSO,000 secured on a home worth £110,000, you would pay 6.7%. This rate is variable and correct at 17.62.99, in this example, if you remortgaged a freehold home in England over 25 years you would pay 6.9%APR. This APP includes land registration fees and our solicitor's and valuers' fees which you will have to pay, in this example they amount to £432. You will also have to pay your rown solicitors' and in the example we assumed £100 for this, Calls are recorded and randomly monitored. Not currently available in Northern Ireland, Virgin Direct Personal Finance £6, Discovery House. Whiting Road, Norweb, 1944 6£1 represents only Virgin Direct Personal Finance £6, Discovery House. Whiting Road, Norweb, 1944 6£1 represents only Virgin Direct Personal Financial Sensice £6d, which is requiated by the Personal Investment Authority for pension, like and unit furst business on behalf of the Virgin Direct Months in February 1959, Examples of what you may be paying if you organise your finances all over the place are Bardays Standard VISA APR 21.4% (unsecured); Lloyds Bank Unsecured Personal Loan APR 17.8% and Natwest Credic Zone Overdraft APR 24.3%, (assuming an overdraft of £1.000, monthly interest rate of 1.38% and monthly fee of £5), Halitax Solid Gold 30 days, 3.70%, gross, AER 3.70%, Source: Moneyfacts. February 1959,



STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

FTSE 100 comes within whisker of record

INVESTORS had the bit be-tween their teeth as the market came within a whisker of its record closing high.

Wall Street's continuing advance on the 10,000 level at the outset of trading fuelled the latest buying spree in London, al-though prices did close below their best levels of the day. Even so, the FTSE 100 index

touched 6,185.2 before eventually closing 85.3 higher at 6,155.2, just 23.8 short of its record close of 6,179.0, achieved in July last year.

Attention switched back to blue chip stocks with secondliners struggling to make headway. This was reflected in the FTSE 250 index which finished 5.7 up at 5,186.4. A total of 922 million shares changed hands.

investor enthusiasm was also fuelled by the better than expected results from Nat-West Bank, up 45p to £13.19. after briefly touching £13.78, and the £5 billion special payment for shareholders proposed by Unilever, Ip lighter

at 62414p, after hitting 65814p. There was also a positive re-sponse to final results from BG, up 3½p to 364½p, which revealed a strong final-quarter performance from its Transco division. The company announced plans to merge its expioration and production and downstream divisions but refused to comment on speculation that it might bid for either Lasmo, steady at 110p, or Enterprise Oil, 1/1p firmer at 239p.

CGU was a nervous market ahead of final results today falling 1814p to 929p. Brokers are braced for a near-halving of pre-tax profits to £500 million. although there should be scope for an increase in the dividend from 32%p to 35%p.

Vodafone received a welcome boost from Merrill Lynch, the broker, that sent the price climbing 33p to E11.72. It is still looking for a ELS by the year end and has raised its profit forecast for 2000 to El billion followed by £1.42 billion in 2001. Merrill says the mobile phone market remains a growth area and forecasts that Vodasone could achieve 70 per cent market pen-

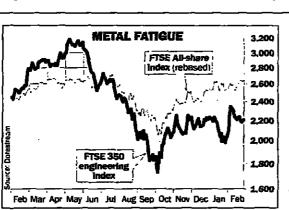
etration by 2004. A "buy" recommendation from BT Alex Brown, the broker, provided Gallaher with a rise of 31-p to 423p. Tony Silverman at BTAB says the



David Varney, chief executive, left, and Philip Hampton, finance director of BG, which closed 34p better at 3641ap

Some bullish comments from Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, bolstered Nycomed Amersham 21 p to 4100:p. It rates the shares a "strong buy" and has raised its target price from 460p to 525p. Price war worries left Tesco 14p lighter at 1724p ahead of a

rival Imperial Tobacco, up 4p meeting with brokers. The to 726mp, by 16 per cent since company has just announced price cuts on a number of leading lines estimated to be worth 660 million. Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, says the move by Tesco is bad news for the rest of the sector. Somer-field fell Hp to 3414p, Iceland Sp to 2504p and Morrison Supermarkets 41-p to 315p. Ladbroke rose 14p to 272p as



THIS week has seen a revival in the fortunes of Brit- in the UK engineering secain's engineers. Support tors may be short lived if as the likes of Weir Group, up 112p at 266½p, having al-ready slumped from a low

Others that have started to attract attention include Delta, up 6½p at 117½p, TI Group. 8p firmer at 380p. Cookson, 21/4p at 144p. and Cammell Lair,d 27/1:p dear-

er at 7621/sp. But brokers such as BT Alex Brown are cautious. John Pearson at BTAB says: "The recent recovery ues to deteriorate in 1999".

He believes that evidence of the market stabilising is limited and the risks to forecasts of the general engineers, in particular, remain on the downside.

His favoured strategy would be to continue buying aerospace and defence stocks. British Aerospace, 614p dearer at 427tap, and Smiths Industries, l0p up at £10, are both seen as a "buy".

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BN Amro, the broker, moved s recommendation from "un- ervalued" to "buy" and set a	Paris:
rget price of 300p. Stakis rose to 1591:p in sympathy.	Zurich: SXA Gen
Devro came bouncing off its ws with a rise of 18%p to 13%p. The maker of sausage cins is clearly vulnerable to a did having seen its price drop om a peak of 545p in May. 1st year. following several	London FT 30 FTSE 100 FTSE 250 FTSE 540 FTSE 640 FTSE 841 FTSE 841 FTSE 841 FTSE 841
rofit warnings. Colin Bramall, the new fi-	FTSE Govi Bargains SEAD Voice

nance director at Universal Salvage, has purchased 5.000 shares in the company. The price responded with a rise of 2p to 59'-p.

BGR Group advanced 20p to 150p following an upbeat post-results presentation for brokers and fund managers on Monday night. It coincided with the opening of a new res-taurant called Fish, in Borough Market, South London. BGR is expected to develop

Fish into a nationwide chain. Confirmation that it was in bid talks gave Coutts Consulting a boost with the price adding 7p. or almost 25 per cent, to 35 p. At these levels, the group carries a price tag of £17.5 million. News of a bid approach lifted BS Group 25p to 145p.

A profits warning from Calluna after the close of official business left the shares nursing a fall of 4p at 23p. The computer drive specialist says profits for the full year will be substantially below expectations. Almost ten million shares had changed before the close.

MFI Furniture was also hit by a late profits warning leaving the price Ip easier at 3op. John Randall has resigned as chief executive and will be replaced by John Hancock. GILT-EDGED: Bond prices enjoyed an early mark up but then spent the rest of the day trading in narrow limits. Attempts to sell off the long gilt future failed with brokers reporting support around the

closed 29p better at £117.86 as the total number of contracts completed reached 33,000. Among conventional issues. Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on 62p to \$149.58, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 9p dearer at £107.27. ☐ NEW YORK: US shares were mixed in choppy trading as investors reacted to Alan Greenspan's comments about the economy. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 15.73 points to 9.568.41.

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Wild West is tamed

THE strategy at NatWest to turn its back on the complicated bits of banking to concentrate on the retail side appears to be working. That is certainly the strong message from yesterday's annual results.

Less generous observers will point out that the profits only looked as good as they did be-cause the group was relieved of the enormous losses incurred by NatWest Markets in 1997. But while 1998 results were clearly flattered by the absence of the losses, the fact that there was no troublesome NatWest Markets there to spoil the results only emphasised why the numbers were worthy of celebration.

The tail end of NatWest's investment banking exposure may return to cast a shadow. Profits flowing from the normal retail branch banking are undeniably flat too. But while growth will be difficult to secure in operating

ordinary current accounts, there is much less risk of encountering disaster. It provides a sta-ble platform from which the search for growth can be launched.

In these results the good growth seen in wealth management — Gartmore unit trusts and pensions savings management — is notable in this context. So is the mortgage business and insurance.

In adding 45p to close at £13.19 NatWest shares are within a whisker of their all-time high. Valued in dividend yield terms the shares now look fully valued, with the gross income at 3.4 per cent.

Yet Lloyds TSB shows how how profitable it is to mine the retail banking seam. NatWest, being that much further behind Lloyds in the recovery/restructuring process, has greater opportunity for finding further growth. Hold.

Admiral

ADMIRAL, the information technology consulting, software and training company, is perhaps one of the most reli-

able performers in the sector. But it unnerved many yesterday by reporting profits at the lower end of estimates. and putting out a strange — and rather bearish — trading

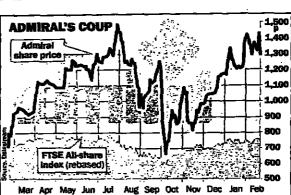
Clay Brendish, Admiral's super-slick executive chairman, seemed to hint that the company's 15 per cent mar-gins could suffer as it focuses on its strategy of international expansion. Indeed, he made a big point of telling sharehold-ers that he would take a three to five-year view, and "not be coloured by the needs of the short and medium term".

That sounded like investors were being softened up for bad news. Brendish also chose to ask

um approaches, too. Longer questions such as: "How much term, good growth is sustaina-IT spend is on Year 2000 and ble, but given the go-slower sig-Euro issues?" And: "Will curnais from the firm it is not surrent levels of growth continprising that Admiral's shares ue?" Most investors would have preferred answers.

Admiral's margins probably will suffer with most future growth set to come from geographic expansion. Some of the puff is bound to go out of IT shares as the Millenni-

fell 9 per cent yesterday. Admittedly the shares have run up strongly in the past few days but it trades on more than 40 times' forecast earnings. This is the wrong time to chase the shares.



BG

BG 1S doing remarkably well upstream. Last year it achieved the extraordinary feat of finding hydrocarbons in 25 out of the 35 wells it drilled. Such a record is unsustainable longer term but shows that the old gas utility is no amateur at the drillbit.

Now it has merged the exploration with the international gas arm. BG is moving closer towards a business with an independent indentity and one which, were the oil price a bit higher; would have ample cashflow to fi-

The BG board insists that exploration and international gas has synergies with Transco, the household pipe-line business. The British Gas name may still open doors in emerging markets but nomenclature is hardly sufficient reason to keep disparate businesses together. BG is trying to do all the

DOLLAR RATES

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balance sheet, taking more of Transco's operation out from under the regulatory cosh and improving the performance of the upstream arm. But the faster BG reforms

itself, the greater the argument to demerge, again. Ex-ploration and international gas is a more speculative business, needing more equity than the safe Transco utility. Investors should get a hefty

cash repayment later this year from the Transco side. Demerger of the upstream side cannot be discounted ei-ther. The transformation of BG is definitely not over.

Housebuilders

DESPITE the mini-rally in the value of shares in quoted UK housbuilders over the past month, the stocks still trade at levels that look miserably low in comparison with their history and against many other more fashionable right things, gearing up its

Wimpey shares change hands at just 7.5 times for the year just reported. Shares in the less attractive Beazer, with its interims published yesterday, are trading on a multiple of 8.5 times forecast earnings for the full year ending in June.

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Housebuilders are unlikely to ascend to, or deserve, super-premium ratings. But there are good reasons to have exposure to the sector. There is pent up demand for housing in the country as planning constrictions recoming more affordable with every interest cut, and housebuilders are capitalising by building and selling bigger houses. There is potential for takeover excitement as well.

Wimpey appears to offer better value to investors than Beazer. It seems more determined to please and the US exposure gives more growth excitement.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

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est is tamed Le Meridien restores bistro chic to its dining rooms



espite the best efforts of Sir Tercace Conran and his mains the gastronomic centre of the world, and it is a matter of pride that even the most humble street corner bistros serve high-quality food at re-

It is ironic, therefore, that it has aken British ownership for the bosses of Le Méridien Hotels & Resorts, one of France's foremost hotel chains since it was founded by Air France 27 years ago, to realise that its hotel dining facilities are letting the side down. A favourite jibe of the cynics has been that the chain's food s comparable with that found in the airline's economy class.

The result is that Méridien, part of Forte and then Granada since 1994, has signed a five-year deal with one of Paris's top chefs to breathe new life

Dominic Walsh reports on Granada's efforts to breathe life into the hotel chain's jaded restaurants

Rostang, whose £9 million turnover business includes a two-Michelinstarred restaurant and the popular Le Bistrot d'à Côté chain, is to be paid an estimated £100,000 a year to oversee the introduction of a number of different restaurant formats.

Bernard Lambert, managing director of Méridien, admitted that, al-though some of the group's hotels had attracted Michelin-starred chefs. things had become "a bit static" in recent years. "I want to get away from the hotel dining room concept," he said. "What I want to bring is a feeling that people are running their own restaurants, not simply a hotel facilithan having someone putting out the coffee cups for breakfast when you're still finishing your dinner."

The first evidence of M Rostang's influence is being felt at the group's London flagship, on Piccadilly, already home to Marco Pierre White, starred chef, who has a lease on the Oak Room. The company has spent £500,000 redeveloping the first-floor Terrace restaurant, which reopened this week as a brasserie serving mainly French food for about £25 to £30 a head, including wine.

M Rostang is diplomatic about the job he faces, insisting that Meridien has a very good reputation as a ho-

Mas Stays

IN THE VAN

MARKS & SPENCER, which

has stores across Europe, is by

common consent the best pre-

pared of all Britain's retailers

for the introduction of the

euro. Preparation has not

been cheap, however. The re-tailer has spent £150 million

on developing and fitting a whole new till system. Other

costs, including the training

The company is keen to em-

phasise that its decision to pre-

pare so thoroughly for the euro

was by no means a political one:

it simply became a necessity as

the countries which it had ex-

panded into across Europe - in-

cluding France, Germany, The

Netherlands and Spain — decided to adopt the single currency in the first wave. "One of the ad-

vantages of the split of the busi-

ness is that we can learn from

what's happening in continental Europe," a spokesman said. Although euro notes and

coins are not going to be intro-duced in euroland until 2002,

the company has already start-

ed displaying prices in both eu-

ros and guilders in The Neth-erlands. It will start doing the

same in other parts of euro-

land in the coming months.

The new tills will show trans-

action costs in both the nation-

of Marks & Spencer's euro prep-

aration, will be fitted by the end of this year. At that point, the

company will be as ready as

can be reasonably expected for

The 1L000 tills, the backbone

of staff, come on top of that.

telier". One of the first things he had to do for the London project was get round the stringent buying policies introduced by Granada after it bought Forte three years ago. "We have managed to change the policy for some products," he said. "For example, we will have poulet de Bresse rather than ordinary chicken." Asked whether he was tempted to include traditional British dishes such as steak and kidney pudding on the menu, he responded with a Gallic

shrug: "I don't know how to do it." Although M Rostang will make occasional visits across the Channel. the kitchen will be run on a full-time basis by Pascale Even, who has

years. "We're not trying to create a gastronomic restaurant." he said. "What we're trying to do is mix the gastronomic with the style of a bistro. It will be a casual restaurant with a French touch."

The second project, due to open early next year, will be at Le Méridien Étoile in Paris, the chain's first hotel, which opened in 1972. Here M Rostang has developed a less formal bistro concept that both parties hope will be capable of being rolled out across the 100-strong chain, al-though menus will allow for local culture. Cities already earmarked are Amsterdam, Monte Carlo, New Orleans, Dallas and Taipei, with Coogne, Frankfurt and the Ritz Madrid to follow.

We will do half a dozen a year as a minimum, time permitting," said

THE

which he welcomes. "This puts

into perspective some of the

gloomier accounts of how our

exporters, backed by Govern-

ment, are facing up to global

Is he really describing Brit-

ain's biggest trade deficit for al-most a decade? Honestly, of all the bare-faced spin . . . I'm sor-ry. A colleague has just re-

minded me that Wilson start-

ed his career as a journalist.

TO ADD to its chagrin over the William Hill sale, I hear

that Warburg Dillon Read is

receiving thousands of angry letters from frustrated private

There are some ingenious

suggestions for reparation. If Warburgs were offering the shares at 135p in the offer and

the business was sold for 150p.

then surely would-be investors

should be receiving an extra

15p a share, or £1,111 for every

El,000 of shares they wanted? Then there is the chap who

took five grand out of a forex

the forex market has turned

against him, and he wants his

HAD always thought of

builders as rugged, no-non-

sense chaps in hard hats. But I learn from the trade paper Contract Journal that one

firm is buying teddy bears for

managers, who are encour-

aged to cuddle them in times

of stress and ask them: "Ted-

An arresting picture, is it

not? Especially in their hard

dy, what do you think?"

Bear faced

money back.

difficulties," he warbles.

Single currency would put UK's unconverted in a spin

Sarah Cunningham, Fraser **Nelson** and Caroline Merrell ask

whether Britain is ready for the euro

the euro, one of the more rather bizarre side effects will be that security guards will find themselves much in demand. If, as the Government indicated yesterday, there are six months during which sterling and the with have to accept payment in pounds and give change in curos. The guards will be needed to keep a close eye on the pounds piling up in the shops, and to terry the currency to its

final resting place.
Who will pay the wages of these guards is a moot point between the Government and the retail sector. It is by no means the only one. The British Retail Consortium had been looking for a clear three years between a referendum decision to join and the introduction of euro cash. Tony Blair told Parliament yester-day that it could be as little as two years. The BRC says that a swift conversion to the euro could cost the industry as much as £4 billion as staff raining and computer proimming is rushed through. Taking a full three years could

industry should begin making big investments now, before Britain has decided whether to join, also failed to find a welcome. Martin Cooper, a senior manager at Deloitte Consulting, said: "People will not commit shareholders' resourc-

WALL STREET

es until it is definite." Larger retailers that already have operations in euroland, such as Tesco, Marks & Spencer and Boots, are exceptions. They are going to have to learn to live with euros whether Britain joins or not, and have had to prepare for the new currency. Boots has esti-mated that it will cost £40 million to prepare for the change in The Netherlands and the Peyublic of Ireland, where it had stores, and the UK. Training staff will account for most

of the cost. As the Government recognises in its National Changeover Plan, there are a host of issues for the retail and financial services sectors. Of particular concern to small traders is that a long period of parallel trading would mean that they had to double their numbers of tills - one for pounds, one for euros. The larger players, with computerised systems,

will have fewer problems.

Moss Bros, which owns Hugo Boss, Blazer and Cecil Gee, has programmed its com-puterised tills to convert any price to euros. Rowland Gee, its managing director, said: "All it took was a couple of lines of computer program. It

was no problem at all." But Mr Gee suspects that retailers do have one trick up their sleeve, which could be bad news for shoppers but

good news for shops.

When sterling is finally wiped out, he says, retailers will find that a £34.99 shirt carrying a new price tag of €23.77 a far less eye-catching price. A red-blooded retailer would be tempted to round this up 624.99

 a cheeky 5 per cent price rise.
 He said: UK retailers rounded up during decimilisation in 1971. This is already happening in Germany — 29 marks works out at something like 614.50, and that's not a very attractive price. So they mark it up, and you have a bit of inflation creeping in."

Among the smaller companies, slot machine operators will suffer some of the worst upheavals. In the last few years the industry has had to accommodate the new 5p, 50p and £2 coins — but the industry is now having to prepare

Steve Jones owns Plymouth Fruit Machines, which rents out about 175 slot machines to clubs and pubs along the south coast of England. He said: "This will be very, very difficult for us. It cost us £6,500 to accept the new 50p pieces. With the curo it will be a whole new coin set, so the cost will be

double that at least." The coin slots are normally big enough to cope with anything, and will not need to be altered. Conversion is a matter of teaching the machines to recognise different weights of new coins - this can be done by changing the microchip.

Mr Jones says he can either call in mechanics, who charge about £35 per machine, or buy his own microchips and software at a cost of £1,500 - and take a hit on profits. The fruit machine produc-

ers are in a much better position. Almost all of the main players supply continental Europe as well as the UK, so they won't need the 30 months to come up with new technology MayGay, the UK's largest in-

dependent fruit machine producer, churns out about 20,000 units a year from its 200-strong workforce in Wolverhampton. Dean Harding, its sales director, said: "Because we export to other countries, we're going to



M&S has already started displaying prices in both euros and guilders in The Netherlands SARAH CUNNINGHAM

have to spend many multiples

of that amount to adapt the

bank's systems to the UK join-

whether the UK should join the

euro or stay out. Tony Willis,

group EMU coordinator, said:

"Half of the money spent is on

IT issues, while the rest is spent

on training up staff." He admit-

ted that there was bound to be

some effect on the foreign ex-

change revenue generated by

The bank itself is neutral on

ing the single currency.

the single currency.

EXEMICATION BEFORE TAIL

the bank as a result of joining

the single currency. However,

the revenue lost on foreign ex-

change because the bank was

no longer trading sterling

against the euro could be made

up by trading the euro against

Margaret Soden, Midland

Bank's senior manager of

EMU planning, said: "Money

has been spent on the whole-

sale market operation. We

have spent money on adapting

the dollar and the yen.

comes to explaining the real implications of the euro to the public. However, they are reluctant to commit themselves to spending hundreds of millions of pounds before the Government sets a clear date

for joining European Monetary Union. Judging by the experience of European banks, Ian Harley, chief executive of Abbey National, believes that making

take the pain and get on the

learning curve. By the time the

euro is introduced to the UK.

we'll have the discipline under

At the other end of the scale.

the big banks are also facing

big headaches. NatWest re-

vealed yesterday that it had al-

ready spent £45 million on

adapting its systems to dealing

with the UK being out of the

euro. Derek Wanless, chief ex-

ecutive, admitted that it would

his organisation euro-ready will cost three or four times the £120 million it has spent on the millennium bug problem. Abbey argues no serious public company could commit itself to spending up to £500 million of its shareholders' money before the Government has even set the

date for a referendum on the euro. Computer systems will, inevitably form the largest part of the euro bill.

statements. Will customers want all transactions and balances in both currencies? With 15 million customers, this presents a big technical challenge. But banks will also have to train their staff to handle the new currency, and explain

PAUL DURMAN

as part of its preparations.

new statements to customers.



Best advice

RELATIONS between the Financial Services Authority and the trade body for the investment industry have turned fragile again. The row began when Kevin James, a research-er with the FSA, produced a paper claiming that fund managers were overcharging wildly

His research was rubbished by the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds. but enough leaked to embar-

rass the fund managers. I have a copy of a letter that has now gone out from Philip Warland, Autif's director-general, to members. In it he queries "how a researcher in the FSA was allowed to spend so much time on such worthless research".

He says the affair has damaged the industry's relationship with the regulator and suggests how to prevent its recurrence. The FSA needs a "research advisory panel drawn from academics, the invest-ment industry and the regulator to decide what research the latter may carry out.

This would mean fund managers giving orders to an inde-pendent regulator, and understandably it has not gone down well at the FSA. Warland tells me he has floated the idea with a senior FSA official but has yet to hear back. I break it to him gently that the response is unlikely to be positive. "Well, there's a surprise."

ABOUT two decades ago the Financial Times produced one of its big special reports on Nigeria after an election there. The issue was, if memory serves, scheduled for early in time beforehand. It began along the lines of "now that Nigeria has returned to stable government..."

On or about December 29 there was a military coup, and the whole survey had to be pulped. Yesterday the FT ran another one, again to mark the elections. This time it begins: "Nearly 40 years after it won independence from Brit-ain..." On somewhat safer ground there, I think.

Trade off

I HAVE a statement here from Brian Wilson, the Trade Minis-

David Barker, a manage-ment consultant, has been secter, on the latest trade figures, onded to Birse to help to reclaim £40 million owed on various projects. He is maintaining an enigmatic silence, but the teddy bear idea is his, the magazine daims. Birse is, it seems, no stranger to eye-catching stunts. Last year, in pursuance of a claim for £11 million against a Welsh local council. staff dressed up as cartoon characters such as Bugs Bunny and paraded past the coun-

> MARTIN WALLER city.diary@the-times.co.uk

cil offices. Don't ask why.

Inadequate cover is key to PPP dispute

From Mr Alan Shrank

If the London Consultants' Association are unhappy with PPP (February 19), one of the largest UK private medical insurance companies, because they insist on their insured being cared for only in certain hospitals, many of which they own, surely their objection is not restraint of trade but should be directed at the inadequacy of their patient's

The contract that PPP has is with their insured clients. The loctor's contract is with their Tient If the insurance cover reir patient enjoys does not over treatment in the hospital the doctors regard as safe and appropriate, surely it is the policy cover that is inadequate and this should be pointed out

When purchasing any insur-ance policy, whether for your car, your house or your valuables, it is essential to understand the exclusions exacted by the insurer.

Once accepted, no demand can be made of the insurer, for example, for subsidence or for theft if they have been excluded from the policy.

London hospitals excluded from health policies are either the very expensive or small independent and often charitable hospitals, while those included are often owned by the insurer, a legitimate restriction not on trade but on the pol-

icy holder. Exclusion of the small hospitals may eventually lead to their closure and their convenience for patients, because of proximity to their home, will

prospective clients to know the significance of the exclusion of particular hospitals from their insurance policies and how this would affect their private medical care.

The difficulty arises when adequate facilities are not available at the listed hospitals, a fact not always appreciated by the patient. If hazard could arise, quite properly the doctor cannot be expected to

Insurers must be aware of this hazard, and be prepared to make necessary adjust-

Yours faithfully, ALAN B. SHRANK, 20 Crescent Place, Town Walls,

Warburg's sure thing

From Mr Eddie Walsh

Sir, After the debacle of the Thomson Travel share offer. one would think that Warburg Dillon Read would have earned its fees by being extra careful over the now pulled William Hill float.

Potential investors will be furning while awaiting refunds of their already cashed cheques. The next time Warburgs act as flotation advisers the 3.30 at Ascot will seem a better bet.

Yours faithfully, EDDIE WALSH, 7 Cotswold Court, Beeston. Nottingham, NG9 3ĽJ.

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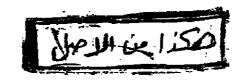
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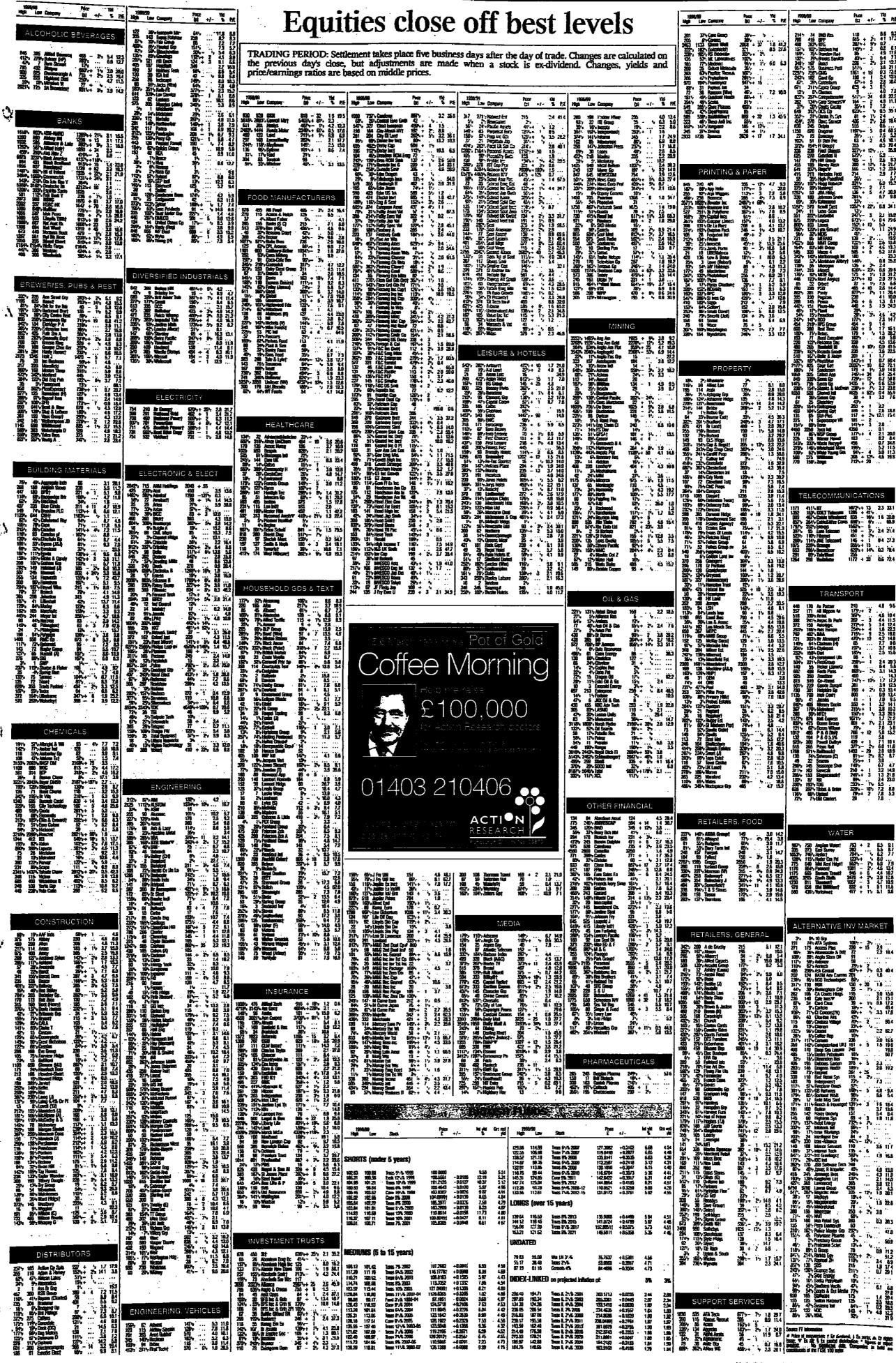
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Controlling shareholder can be employee

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Bottrill Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Mantell [Judgment February 12]

A controlling shareholder of a company could also be an employee of that company who was entitled under the Employment Rights Act 1996 to recover from the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry money owed by the company when it became insolvent.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of the Secretary of State for Trade and industry against the derace and industry against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr. Justice Morison, President, Mr. A. C. Blyghton and Mrs R. Chapman) (1998) ICR 564) to uphold the decision of the industrial relevant Mr. Pater Rottrill trial tribunal that Mr Peter Bottrill was entitled to claim a payment from the secretary of state under section 184 of the 1996 Act.

Ms Jennifer Eady for the secretary of state: Mr Martyn Barklem for Mr Bottrill.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that whether a person who was a controlling shareholder of a company could also be an em-ployee of that company for the purposes of the 1996 Act was an issue on which there had been conflictine previous decisions.

In Buchan v Secretary of State for Employment ([1997] IRLR 80) the Employment Appeal Tribunal had decided that a controlling shareholder could not be an employee for that purpose.

In Fleming v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1997) IRLR 682) the Inner House of the Court of Session did not apply Buchan and had decided that a controlling shareholder could be an

Whether he was an employee or

Westminister City Council v

Blenheim Leisure (Restau-

Before Lord Justice Brooke, Mr Jus-

In order to establish whether offers

of sexual services for reward consti-

ruted a failure on behalf of a licen-

see to maintain good order in the

premises, it was necessary for the li-

censee to have knowledge of the of-

Court so held in dismissing an ap-

peal, by way of case stated, by West-minster City Council, against the

dismissal by Geoffrey Brain

Breen, Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, on March 18, 1998 at

Horseferry Road Magistrates Court on informations laid against

Blenheim Leisure (Restaurants) Ltd. Simon Phillip Langer and Car-

lo Guiseppe Luigi Cura, that offers

The Oueen's Bench Divisional

rants) Ltd and Others

(Judgment February 12)

stances. A similar view had been taken by the appeal tribunal in the

The significance of the issue was that if the controlling shareholder was an employee, then upon any of the conditions specified in section 166(7) being satisfied, broadly speaking on insolvency, as an employee, the controlling shareholder was entitled to recover certain sums, which would otherwise be owing from the company, from the secretary of state in accordance

with the provisions of the Act. including statutory redundancy pay-ments (section 166), unpaid wages and holiday pay and moneys in lieu of notice, the basic award of compensation in respect of unfair dismissal and other payments, including protective awards, and moneys due for time taken off work for trade union duties, etc. (Section 184).

Mr Bottrill had become managing director of Magnatech UK Ltd in 1994. There had been one other director and two other individuals had been employees.

The one share of the company which was issued had been held by Mr Bottrill. It had, however, been intended in the future that an American group, which supplied Magnatech with all items for sale, would hold 80 per cent of the shares in the company.

A draft shareholders' agreement

describing the proposed relationen the group and Magnatech had been prepared. However, before the agreement was executed. Magnatech had be-Bottrill was still the sole sharehold-

er. A receiver had been appointed.

Mr Bottrill had become redundant and had been dismissed. The industrial tribunal, in con-cluding that Mr Bottrill had been an employee, had relied on its findings that Mr Bottrill's status as sole shareholder had only been temporary and any control which he had had of the company was

to provide sexual services for re-

ward, made by various females to

police officers, did not constitute a

failure by the licensees to maintain

good order in the premises under

rule 9 of Westminster City Coun-

cil's Rules of Management for Plac-es of Public Entertainment, incor-

porated under paragraph 1(1) of

Schedule 12 to the London Govern-

ment Act 1963, as amended by the

The magistrate had convicted the licensees of breaches of rule 4

Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning.

QC and Mr Mark Bryant-Heron

for Westmininster, Mr Ian Glen, QC and Miss Susanna Fitzgerald

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said

that in deciding whether the behav-iour of female dancers in the appel-lants' clubs was in breach of rule 9

it was necessary to consider wheth-

Local Government Act 1985.

of the council's rules.

for the appellants.

only theoretical. The actual control had been held by the American

The tribunal had laid stress on the facts that Mr Bottrill had paid national insurance contributions and tax as if he was an employee, had been entitled to sick pay. worked fixed hours and had a contract with Magnatech that was described as a contract of employ-

Having considered Fleming and Buchan the court had concluded that, of the two approaches, it had no hesitation in preferring the approach in Fleming.
As the court understood the rea-

ng in Buchan, it was the ability of the shareholder to prevent his dismissal which was crucial and that in turn depended on his ability to use his voting rights to that end. But shareholders in general did not have the right to interfere with management decisions save pursuant to resolutions passed in general meeting. But by then the dismiss-

al might have occurred. The gloss sought to be given to "employee" in the Act, based as it was on the ability of the controlling shareholder to prevent his dismiss-al, was all the more surprising when applied to a case such as the present when Mr Bottrill had been powerless to prevent his actual dis-missal which triggered his claim.

The court recognised the attractions of having in relation to the Act a simple and clear test which would determine whether a shareee for the purposes of the Act or not. However, the Act did not provide such a test and it was far from obvious what Parliament would have intended the test to be.

Knowledge of sex offer required for conviction

of prostitution. In their Lordships'

opinion they did: see R v McFar-

lane ([1994] QB 419, 424). In deciding whether the offers made by the females, having been

made discreetly to an individual

without being overheard or any-

one else being aware of such offers.

could properly be said to amount to a failure on the part of the licen-

sees to maintain good order in the premises, what mattered was

whether the licensees were aware

It was in his Lordship's opinion

immaterial whether anyone else overheard what was being offered, or was aware of it see R v Tan

(1983) QB 1053, 1059). Provided that it could be estab-

lished in each case that the licensee

in guestion was aware of those

practices, so that it could be said

that he permitted them to take place, his Lordship of the opinion

of those activities.

The court did not find any justification for departing from the well established position in the law of employment generally. That was whether or not an employer/em-ployee relationship existed could be decided only by having regard

If an individual had a controlly a fact which was likely to be sigmilicant in all situations and in some cases it might prove to be de-

However, it was only one of the factors which were relevant and certainly was not to be taken as determinative without considering all the relevant circumstances. Both Fleming and the appeal tri-

considerations. bunal in the present case had made it clear that the scope for abuse was limited. The court would reaffirm their views as to the use of devices to seek remedies against the secretary of state in inappropriate circumstances.

However, those cases apart, it was right to note that, in a case such as the present where national insurance contributions had been paid, to deprive an individual or his claims under the Act could be to deprive unjustly that individual of the benefits to which he could properly expect to be entitled after he and his "employer" had made the appropriate contributions.

ling shareholding, that was cer

The industrial tribunal had been entitled to conclude that there had been a genuine contractual re-lationship between Mr Bottrill and his company and, having carefully and properly weighed the compet-ing factors, it had arrived at a conclusion which was unimpeachable

on the facts.

The secretary of state had expressly accepted that if he was wrong in supporting the approach in law in Buchan, the appeal had to be dismissed. He had asked the court to provide what guidance it could because of the frequency with which problems of the type exemplified by the present case

The court was anxious not to lay down rigid guidelines for the irrquiry which the tribunal of fact had to undertake in the particular stances of each case, but the court hoped that the following com-

To allow acts of prostitution to

take place on the premises would amount to a failure to maintain

good order in the premises. It was

not necessary to show conduct which would amount to a public or-

der breach of the peace, or to show

that the conduct was rowdy.

The statutory provisions or the rules did not create offences of

strict liability. It was necessary to

establish mens rea and therefore

knowledge on the part of the licen-

Since the magistrate expressly found that no one else, including, it

must be assumed, the licensees.

was aware of what was being of-

fered, his Lordship did not see how

it could be said that any breach of

the rule had occurred. According

ly, the magistrate was right in law. Mr Justice Forbes agreed

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE,

bunal was likely to wish to consid-er was whether there was or had been a genuine contract between

the company and the shareholder. In that context now and for what reasons the contract had come into existence, for example, whether the contract was made at a time when insolvency loomed, and what each party actually did pursuant to the contract were likely to be relevant.

If the tribunal concluded that the contract was not a sham, it was likely to wish to consider next whether the contract, which might well have been labelled a contract of employment, actually gave rise to an employer/employee relation-

In that context, of the various factors usually regarded as relevant, the degree of control exercised by the company over the shareholder employee was always important. That was not the same question as that relating to whether there was a controlling shareholding. The tribunal might think it ap-

propriate to consider whether there were directors other than or in addition to the shareholder employee and whether the constitushareholder rights such that he was in reality answerable only to himself and incapable of being dis-

If he was a director, it might be relevant to consider whether he was able under the articles of association to vote on matters in which he was personally interested, such as the termination of his contract of employment. Again, the actual conduct of the parties pursuant to the terms of the contract was likely

It was for the tribunal as an industrial jury to take all relevant fac-tors into account in reaching its conclusion, giving such weight to them as it considered appropriate. Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor;

agreeing, added that the council would do well to tighten up the lan-guage of rule 9 if it wished to be able to use it to prohibit such activi-

ties on licensed premises after the

Human Rights Act 1998 comes into

force, since the application of the

Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental

Freedoms (1953, Cmd 8969) would

have the effect of prescribing that a

criminal offence must be clearly de-

Solicitors: Mr Colin Wilson,

Westminister: Jeffrey Green Rus-

Pillion passenger was using motorcycle

other

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Robert Walker Dudgment February 151

A pillion passenger who knew the motorcyle driver was uninsured and who had agreed on a joint venture to go for a drive for the thrill of the drive itself was "a person using the vehicle" within the meaning of clause 6(1)(c)(ii) of the Motor Insurers' Bureau (Compensation of Victims of Uninsured Drivers) Agreement (1972) and could not claim empensation from the bureau.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal by the second defendant. the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) against the decision of Mr Justice Bell in the Queen's Bench Division at Bristol on February 10, 1998 that the MIB was liable for damages, to the with was name or untages, in be assessed, for an accident in which the plaintiff, Lucy Maria Goretta O'Mahoney, was injured by the first defendant, Thomas Anthony Joliffe, who was uninsured.

Clause 6 of the 1972 agreement provides: "(1) MIB shall not incur any liability under ... this agreement in a case where ... (c) at the time of the accident the persons suffering ... bodily injury in respect of which the claim is made was allowing himself to be carried in a vehicle and ... (ii) ... being a person us-ing the vehicle, he was using ... the vehicle ... without there being in force ... a contract of insurance."

Mr Dermod O'Brien and Mr Bradley Martin for the MIB; Mr Richard Methuen, QC and Mr Bri-an Gallagher for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the plaintiff was seriously injured in a road accident when she had been pillion on the first defendant's motorcyle when

he lost control and crashed. The judge held that as between the plaintiff and first defendant the latter was wholly to blame and or-dered him to pay 100 per cent of the

plaintiffs damages to be assessed. The first defendant was, however, uninsured and hence the involvement of the MIB. The MIB counterclaimed for a declaration

that they were exempt from any lia-bility to the plaintiff under clause 6(1)(c)(ii) of the 1972 agreement. The judge found that the plain-tiff knew there was no contract of insurance in force. He concluded, however, that at the time of the accident the plaintiff was not "a person using the vehicle" so that the MIB was not exempt from liability un-

O'Mahoney v Joliffe and An- that conclusion was the single issue raised on the appeal.

At the time of the accident, the aintiff was 20 and the defendant 18. The defendant lived with his mother. The plaintiff came from ireland and was travelling with the defendant's cousin. The two girls came to stay at the defend-

ant's house. The defendant was mostly unemployed and spent much of his time working on motorcyles. The one which he crashed he had bought a few months earlier for £10. By the time of the accident, work on the bike was virtually finished.

On a number of occasions the defendant's mother had told the defendant, his cousin and the plain-tiff not to go out on the bike. She had specifically reminded them that there was no tax, no MoT, no insurance and no driving licence and also warned them of its condi-

The judge referred to Stinton v Stinton (1995) KTR 167). Hatton v Hall (1997) KTR 212), Brown v Rob-erts (1965) 1 QB 1), Leathley v Tat-ton (1980) KTR 21) and B (a Mi-

nor) v Knight ([1981] RTR 136). The central principles which could be derived from those cases were as follows: 1 "Using" in clause 6 bore the same meaning as in the road traffic Acts, now the 1988 Act, so that a user was by definition someone required to provide third party cover and, if he failed to do so, was potentially liable both criminally and civ-

2 Not all passengers were users even when they knew that the vehide was being driven without insur-

illy. "User" therefore had a restrict-

3 There had to be present in the pu-tative user some element of controlling, managing or operating the ve-

4 That element could exist as a re-sult of a joint venture to use the vehide for a particular purpose or where the passenger procured the

making of the journey. 5 Not every such joint venture or procurement, however, would involve the element of control or management necessary to constitute the passenger as a user.
6 Whether in any given case there

was a sufficient element of control or management to constitute the passenger a user was a question of fact and degree for the trial judge. In his Lordship's judgment this was in the very fullest sense a joint entreprise. It was not merely an agreement to travel somewh

the uninsured vehicle, as in Hatton v Hall.

the actual riding of the vehicle was an integral part of the thrill of the venture. Here, unlike there, the judge feit able to make a positive finding that at one point during the outing the plaintiff herself actually rode the bike.

In his Lordship's judgment it was unreal and impermissible to hold, as effectively the judge did. that a party to such a venture could, so to speak, slip into and out

of the status of vehicle user.

Given, as inevitably, he held, that the plaintiff was using the bike while herself riding it; given, as he could not but have beld had he specifically addressed the question, that the plaintiff was using the bike at the outset when she helped bump start it; and given her equal participation throughout in the central purpose of the venture, his Lordship could not accept that a point ever arrived at which the dge could properly hold that her involvement was spent and the level of her control, management or operation of the bike fell short of hat necessary to constitute her as 📥

While the mere fact of knowledge of the uninsured use of the vehicle was not of itself sufficient to constitute the passenger as a user. as one of flagrant criminality, that consideration coloured its essential nature and enabled it more properly to be characterised as one involving "user" of the vehicle on the part

of all those fully participating.

That view carried with it the following conclusion: that passengers who had no reason to suppose that a vehicle's use was uninsured or otherwise unlawful were less likely than those like the plaintiff to be found users of it with all the adquences which such a finding en-

The present MIB agreement. which came into force on December 31, 1988 no longer required the to knowledge of no insurance as a condition of exemption from liability. Had, therefore, the plaintiff suffered her accident just five months later, her claim would have failed.

remained a number of cases like hers awaiting final determination. The present appeal was therefore clearly of importance not merely to the plaintiff but to others too. Lord Justice Ward delivered a

Nevertheless, ten years on there

concurring judgment and Lord Jus-tice Robert Walker agreed. Solicitors: Palser Grossman. Southampton: Lamport Bassitt.

Price not misleading when published

Thomson Tour Operations Ltd v Birch - ---Before Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment January 26] Section 20(1) of the Consumer Pro- ing ... (d) that a person who in fact

bility for indications of price which were misleading at the time they were made, and not indications of price which subsequently became

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by Thomson Tour Operators Ltd. by way of case stated, against their conviction by Reddirch Justic-es on May 22, 1998, that they bad given an indication to Alison Lee Buxter that was misleading as an indication as to price in November 1996, and was subsequently shown to be misleading when tested in February 1997 contrary to section 20(1) of the 1987 Act.

The information was preferred by Stephen William Birch on behalf of Hereford and Worcester County Council.

Thomson's Fair Trading Charter published in their holiday brochure (second edition, April-October 1997) stated: "...our early price promise means that if we reduce the total price of a holiday, after you have booked it, we will charge the new lower price".

Section 20 of the 1987 Act provides: "(1) ... a person shall be guilty of an offence if, in the course of any business of his, he gives (by any means whatever) to any consumers an indication which is missing and the tries at which as eading as to the price at which any goods, services, accommodation or facilities are available..."

Section 21 provides: "(1) For the

Court cannot release

cash to fund case

what those consumers might rea-sonably be expected to infer from the indication or any omission from it, includes any of the followhas no such expectation (i) expects the price to be increased or reduced ... or (ii) expects the price, or the price as increased or reduced to be

Mr Raymond Walker, QC, Mr Philip Galway Cooper and Mr Stephen Mason for Thomson; Mr Andrew Wallace for the prosecu-

MR JUSTICE FORBES said that after booking her holiday Mrs Baxter found that her friend, Mrs Paula Anderton, had booked the same holiday from Thomson, hav-ing accepted an offer of a 10 per cent discount.

Mrs Baxter wrote to Thomson's sales manager in Birmingham, who refused to reduce the price of the holiday to match the discount offered to Mrs Anderton. She then wrote to Thomson's head office. and in the meantime paid the bal-

ance due.

The head office later refunded Mrs Baxter an amount equivalent to a 10 per cent discount.

His Lordship said that under section 21(1) of the 1987 Act, the per-

son who was alleged in fact to have no such expectation was Thomson. Under that section the prosecu tion was required, to prove conjunc-tively that, between November I and 30, 1996 Thomson had indicatand 30, 1990 incrisor that they expected the price of the boliday to be re-duced; and at the time that indica-tion was given they did not expect

the price of the holiday to be re-The early price promise referred

misleading as to a price if what is to the possibility of a decrease in conveyed by the indication, or the price of the holiday at some time after it had been booked. Section 20(1) was expressed in the present tense not in the future tense and it created criminal liabili-

> and did not extend to the price lat-Parliament did have in mind the possibility of an indication of price which, after it was given, had become misleading since that was specifically provided for in section 2022.

ty for indications of price which

The words of the charter did not

not be said that Thomson anticipat-

express an expectation on the part of Thomson that the price was to

holiday. The justices should have acquitted Thomson. LORD JUSTICE BROOKE.

agreeing, added that when the bro-chure was published Thomson in effect told customers that if the price went down they would charge a lower price. On the facts of this case they should have done, able claim damages for breach of

warranty. But at the time they did not ex-pect the price to go down. That would depend on the markets and there was no evidence before the justices that they would expect it to

Solicitors: Mason Bond: Mr Si-



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Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Harris (Stephen

Before Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Forbes [Judgment January 29]

Where cash had been seized under section 42 of the Drug Trafficking Act 1994, but forfeiture had not yet been ordered, a magistrates court did not have any jurisdiction to direct the release of cash for the pur-poses of funding legal proceedings

under the Act. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an ap-peal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise by way of case stat-ed against the decision of Uxbridge Justices on July 21, 1998 to allow Stephen David Harris legal ex-

penses from seized cash. Mr Harris had been preparing to board a flight to Colombia from Heathrow airport when he was found to be carrying US\$95,000. Mr Harris's account of the origin and purpose of the cash was consid-

On April 21, 1998 the cash was seized. On April 23, an application for the continued detention of the seized cash was heard by Unbridge Justices who granted a further de-

sioners: Mr Joel Clompus for Mr MR JUSTICE FORBES SAID

Rights (1953, Cmd 8969).

any cash in the absence of any specific power to make such an order. Magistrates courts were the creatures of statute and their powers were defined and limited by statute. It was wrong to imply a power

where none existed. Lord Justice Brooke agreed and Excise: Saunders & Co.

tention of three months. On July 21, 1998, the court granted a further application for the detention of the seized cash for another three months. It also granted Mr Harris his legal expenses for defending the application and that was to be taxed from the detained cash held

Mr Andrew Bird for the commis-

that there was no ambiguity or un-certainty in the statutory provi-sions in question, and the court did not need to have regard to the European Convention on Human His Lordship was satisfied that

there was no proper basis for extending to magistrates a power to make any order for the release of

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs

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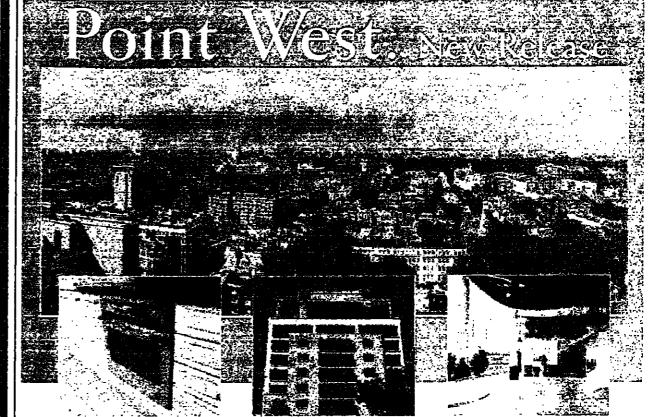


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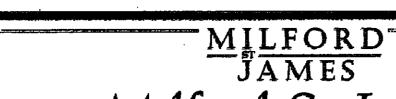
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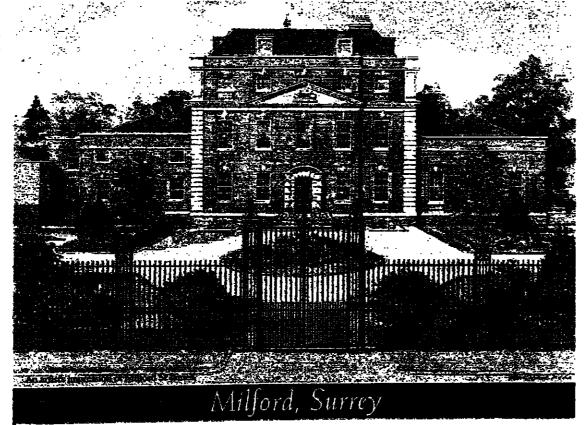




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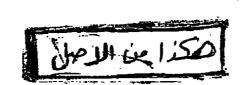
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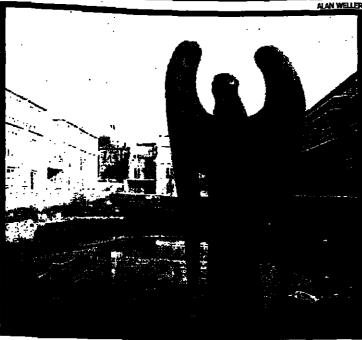
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The "lifesize" bronze angel at North London's Angel on the Green flats

Private art for the people

Sculpture long ago ceased being a feature of public buildings. Now the statue is making a comeback with developers. Mary Wilson reports

lins Yard to Islington Green, you might be rather surprised to pass a "lifesize" bronze angel. The magnifi-cent statue has just been installed in the centre of a landscaped courtyard at a new development of flats, Angel on the Green.

The idea was conceived in 1997 by the developer. Grove Manor Homes, and, because planning conditions stipulated that passers-by should be able to walk through the development in daylight hours, they can also

appreciate the statue. Jeff Duggan, the managing director of Grove Manor Homes, says:

f you were ambling from St ent for this development that would help our marketing and contribute something to the community." So the company chose three sculptors from a list provided by the Royal Sculpture Society and began a competition to see who came nearest to fulfilling the brief. It chose chose John Roberts. who has sculpted a stone angel for Lincoln Cathedral and last year had three statues at Westminster Abbey unveiled by the Queen.

"This was the first time that I had worked to a commission from a property developer," Mr Roberts says. "But I was delighted to be chosen."

About a year ago. Mr Roberts made a 2ft model so that the company could photograph it for marketing purposes and display it in the sales of-



fice. In December, the completed oft oin angel was carefully lowered into place for all to see.

Being a philanthropic developer does not come cheap. The statue has cost Grove Manor Homes about £50,000, but Mr Duggan says that the publicity and kudos generated has made the money well spent. Two and three-bedroom flats in the development are priced from £290,000 (0171-359 5259).

Another sculpture is to be erected later this year in London behind a development of flats in St Vincent Square, Pimlico, Central London. This is a striking abstract figure cre-

ated by the artist Tom Grimsey. Angela South, the sales and marketing director of Nicholson Estates.

LONDON RENTALS

HERTFORDSHIRE

says: "We worked with Art Contact, a London consultancy that places art in the public arena. We chose Mr Grimsey because much of his work is based on his interest in the shared language of sculpture and architec-

This sculpture, a link over 8ft high, will also be visible to the public. Mr Grimsey has entitled it Travelling Step and designed it to rise from a water feature in the central courtyard garden, reflecting the glass-and-steel architecture of the building. Twobedroom flats and three-bedroom penthouses in the development are available from £295,000 to £695,000 (0171-592 0203).

CALA Homes is also going down the artistic route. At its Britannic

House Apartments development in Moseley, Birmingham, an enormous steel sculpture is being commis-sioned to go outside the entrance.

Sue Parry, the company's sales and marketing director, says: This will form part of the structural canopy into the development. Because the building looks like a 1930s liner, the whole theme is nautical. The sculpture will represent a ship's mast and a sail and will form the awning over the entrance."

The Art Deco-style building is cres-cent-shaped and clad in cream marble. It will contain 113 one, two and three-bedroom flats and penthouses. priced from about £100.000 to £600,000 (Robert Powell & Company.

Will ghosts spook buyers?

judgment at Derby County Court last month went some way towards deciding the legal status of ghosts. Judge Peter Stretton found comprehensively against Andrew and Josephine Smith, who had sued the vendors of Lowes Cottage, in Upper Mayfield. Derbyshire, on the ground that the property was haunted. ...

In a five-minute ruling, Judge Stretton described the Smiths' stories of spectral molestation as hysterical reactions", and found that invisible presences, foul smells and ghostly footsteps were "far more likely to have been created by a man than a ghost"

But the case may not have laid the issue entirely to rest. Judge Stretton said that "there is no acceptable evidence that this house . . . has ever been the subject of a supernatural visitation", but he came to no verdict on the reality of hauntings

in general.
If you mention ghosts to estate agents, they often clam up. Haunted houses are a thorny issue for agents, who are understandably wary of

becoming a laughing stock. Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, of the National Association of Estate Agents, says: You're not going to mention anything

interests - but you can't tell untruths, either." For agents, the problem is that haunting, unlike dry rest and structural damage.

is a subjective phenomenon. "I have come across enough cases to say that supernatural events sometimes really happen." says Tony Cornell of the Society for Psychical Research. "But ultimately I

think that they depend on the mind of the percipient.'
Even the most committed believers think that some people are more sensitive to phenomena than others. Similarly, the most hardened sceptics admit that stories of hauntings could put a buyer off a house.

Mr Dunsmore-Hardy says: "If an owner has declared a ghost, the agents are not obliged to mention it. But they cannot suggest anything that would be contradicted by the presence of ghosts. such as that the property is a 'pleasant family home'." With an old property, of

course, a ghost could be a selling point. But there is no doubt that with a more modern house some vendors would be put off by spirits.

According to one report, the "haunted house" at Upper Mayfield rose above its pre-ghost value once the judge had ruled.

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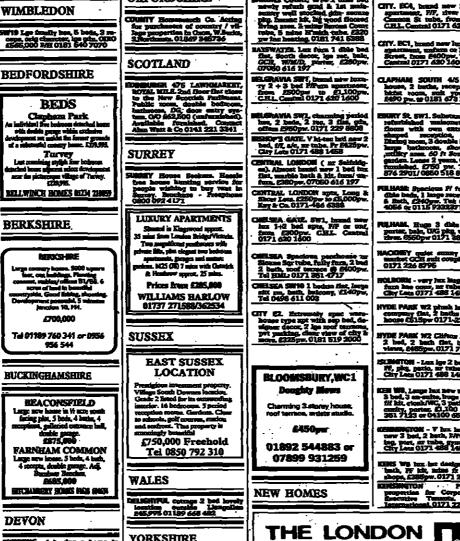
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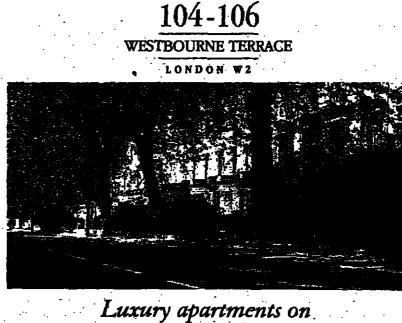
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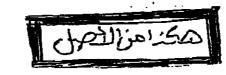
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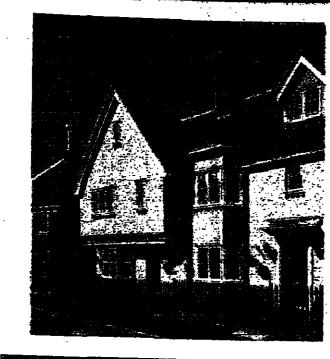
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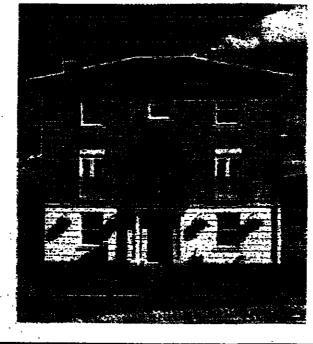
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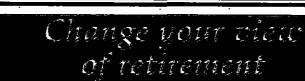
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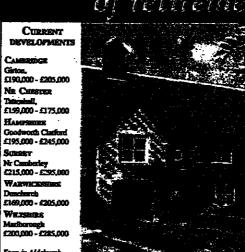
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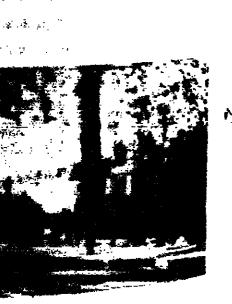


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Into his leap of honour

DANCE: Will Irek Mukhamedov's Don Juan presage his withdrawal from the stage? Interview by Allen Robertson

oday we are all warned not to expect a job for life. But dancers have known this all along. They understand that the physical demands of their trade mean they will be quitting the limelight at the very point when other professionals hit their stride.

Irek Mukhamedov turns 39 next week. Yet, far from heading for the scrapheap, the Russian ballet star is about to be handed that most coveted of all dance trophies: a new fulllength role created for him. Starting at Sadler's Wells on Monday, Mukhamedov will be playing the title character in The Return of Don Juan for Arc Dance Company. The gusto of his performance looks set to dispel the doomsday prophe-

cies of a career in decline.

I still dance 200 per cent every time." Mukhamedov insists. "Ballet is always young. but I have experience. I've been on stage for 20 years."

According to the choreographer Kim Brandstrup, the creative inspiration behind this new Don Juan is Mukhamedov's outsized talent. A comedy set in a modern film studio, it has a plot loosely based on a Danish radio play from the 1930s. That sparked off a similarly obscure Ingmar Bergman opus, The Devil's Eye (1960). Don Juan, briefly let out of Hell, sets his sights on a virginal ingenue, "the only girl of unassailable virtue left in the world". In trying to seduce her, the Don makes the calamitous mistake of falling in love for the first (and last) time: It is a perfect role for

Mukhamedov. Not only does he radiate masculine sexuality on stage, he also has an impish flair for comedy. "It is comic," he says, "but I hope the audience will cry a little bit too."
This is Mukhamedov's sec-

ond created role for Arc: in 1994 he starred in Brandstrup's version of Othello. In the interim, Brandstrup has

The Royal Ballet survived without Rudolf Nureyev. It will survive without me?

choreographed for several big classical ballet companies, including the Royal Danish. Mukhamedov feels that this has helped Brandstrup's style to grow. "I wish I could be a choreographer." the Russian dancer says, "but I know it is impossible. When I try to choreograph I get a headache. So when someone makes a ballet for me. I feel honoured."

A young superstar with the Bolshoi Ballet, lauded for his dynamism in blockbusters such as Spartacus and Ivan the Terrible, Mukhamedov and his second wife left Moscow for London nine years ago. He joined the Royal Ballet, where he has been ever since. The choreographer Kenneth MacMillan doted on his

talents. No one so dramatically evoked the forment of Crown Prince Rudolf in Mayerling, the ballet Mukhamedov was dancing that night in 1992 when MacMillan died backstage. It was a blow for Mukhamedov. The dancer believes that he and the Royal's

chief choreographer were forming a great partnership. Today his future is in flux. From this season he is a guest with the Royal Ballet rather than a full-time member, and Mukhamedov feels that Covent Garden has cut him adrift. "I'm a dancer who needs to be a part of a company. To be a guest is to be on the outside. But the Royal Ballet will survive. It survived without Rudolf Nureyev. It will survive without Irek Mukhamedov." His immediate future in-cludes guest appearances in Ja-pan, Russia and Germany. He

and Anthony Dowell, the Royal Ballet's artistic director. have also worked out what he will be dancing (as a guest) once the company is back at Covent Garden next season. "I would like to dance as much as I can, as long as possible." Away from the dance world he has the bedrock of his wife and two children, now eight and three. "When we finish talking now I will fly back to them in Bedfordshire. They will still be there when it is

I could be a cabbie." The Return of Don Juan is at Sadler's Wells (0171-863 8000) from Monday to Wednesday, ther tours nationally until April 16

time to give up dancing, may-be sooner than I think. Who

knows? I love driving. Maybe



No sex means no cigar

ne way or another, it all comes down to sex. would be nothing but a common factory worker; without it, José would still be on the right side of the law and Micaela would be a happily married woman. And without it, we would not have our story. Didy Veldman's new ballet for Northern Ballet Theatre, unveiled at the Grand Theatre in Leeds on Monday, knows this. But somehow her Carmen cannot quite bring itself to express this fundamental truth.

And yet virtually everything else about Veldman's produc-tion (sponsored by Halifax plc) is in place. The staging is excel-lent — the story is told lucidly and quickly with a strong sense of purpose. The scenario, devised by the late Christopher Gable, reimagines the tale, setting it in contemporary Rio de Janeiro, and that works just fine. The designs, by the in-estimable Lez Brotherston, capture the inner-city malaise of an industrial wasteland blighted by poverty and despair. The Bizet score, arranged by John Longstaff, is enthusiasti-cally played by John Pryce-Jones and the Northern Ballet Theatre Orchestra. And Patricia Doyle's direction ensures excellent performances from a uniformly accomplished cast.

No, the problem is the choreography which, despite its plain-spoken energy, does not show us a full-blooded tale of fatal attraction. Veldman's strength is in her writing for the ensemble. She animates the stage in well-defined social observation: the gangsters and crooks have a restless bravado; the factory girls are trapped by boredom and futility; the police officers evince a

wooden devotion to duty. When the opportunity arises to have some fun. Veldman takes it. She enjoys reinventing Escamillo as a rock star, and getting raunchy as the toreador song is subjected to the full synthesized rock treat-



ment. Some of her vignettes are juicy, such as the robbery of two tourists by Carmen's gang, and Veldman responds well to the coarseness of Carmen's society, making clear that almost everything in it has its price. But the unisex democracy of the choreography works against Veldman when it comes to focusing on soloists. She doesn't have the language to make them special. She never fully establishes



Daniel de Andrade (José),

the overpowering physical connection between Charlotte Broom's Carmen and Daniel de Andrade's José, so that when their final confrontation arrives, it comes almost as a dramatic non sequitur. The awkward and evasive consummation scene in Carmen's bedroom is far from sizzling and Veldman seems so intent on portraying Carmen as a tomboy that poor Broom seems stuck in a perpetual adolescence. Broom is an impressive dance actress, but if the body language of the ballet is not screaming adult sexual allure, what is her Carmen to do?

DEBRA CRAINE

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The comparison may be per-See page 47 of metro on Saturday

Bombast without bite

ondon has heard some fine performances of ▲ Mahler's mighty Resurrection Symphony recently, but none perhaps as overtly impressive as this account by Myung-Whun Chung with the London Symphony Orchestra. A packed Barbican Hall added to the sense of occasion, and with its concentration, vivid-



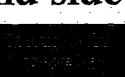
huge impression was not enough, and the performness of orchestral playing and ance's failure to be truly stir-remarkably controlled singing ring pointed up the pitfalls of it added up to something quite playing Mahler.

Youthful fling on the wild side

A TIME there was when Thomas Adès was only a pianist: a BBC Young Musician finalist. a career as a soloist certainly beckoned. But that would have limited him, so he became a composer, and developed, in rapid succession, par-allel careers as a conductor and artistic director. Still in his twenties, he has been appointed artistic advisor to the Aldeburgh Festival. And as if to underscore his credentials as heir to the Britten legacy came this Wigmore concert of classical chamber music.

tinent. Britten was an exceptional pianist, but especially an exceptional accompanist. Beethoven's vast, soul-searching Ghost Trio requires something more than musicianly genius. Of course, Adès has this in spades: he cannot fail to be interesting, and his piano playing has the inner conviction and understanding of the composer-pianist. He is so interesting, in fact, that Mitsuko Uchida herself came to hear him. But what must she, a pianist with a capital P, have made of it? From the blizzard of notes in the rushed opening Ades led an exciting but harebrained performance.

Admittedly, the excellent violinist Anthony Marwood who would have given that vital shape to the ensemble had flu, and was replaced by the fluent but often superficial Alexander Janacek. As Adès blazed forward, only cellist Louise Hopkins appeared to be trying to salvage an interpretation dragging them back in the Largo to make space for what should be hard-won cres-



cendos. Under Ades's hands the great descending scales dis-appeared in a wash of pedal, only to rear up suddenly accented at the finish.

More successful was the arresting Haydn E major Trio, HXV23. Here Adès could lead, and the ensemble cohered. The intriguing opening in which pizzicato notes pin down the wings of spread piano chords had hints of transparency, though Ades lent high camp to the mock-Ba-

roque Allegretto. Marwood was too ill to play Bartok's Contrasts but rose heroically to a witty piece of Ades juvenilia, Catch (1991). This charming musical conceit casts the clarinettist (the fine Lynsey Marsh) as outsider, who must wander in and out looking for a way into a composition that fizzes like the unwinding of clockwork toys. She is finally forgiven with an

alluring lyric finale.

Another piece of theatre, Ades's Life Story (1994), on a droll tract of Tennessee Williams about one-night stands. strains to be a louche cabaret number (the ghost of Britten again) but really needs an untrained voice. Although Mary Carewe injected a degree of intimacy, this is a laboured setting over its asymmetric bass rumblings. Adès has moved on since, but a packed house lapped it up.

HELEN WALLACE

Masterpieces of this size are open to many different interpretations, but this one, coming at the end of the LSO education programme's enterprising Discovery Day, was a little too indulgent. Mahler is at least partly about luxuriant sound, intricate detail and vulgar bombast, and Chung, conducting from memory, conjured up all these with a sure hand. Yet he missed the work's more severe and unset-

Even at the slow tempos he adopted, Chung's pacing was secure. He shaped the work's biggest span, the death-into-life idea that arches over the entire work, with a certainty that disguised the symphony's

fragmented gestation.
With its bristling tension, the opening promised much: as the movement developed a sense of both serenity and epic grandeur, all seemed to be in place for a compelling interpre-tation. But then Chung's relaxed speeds began to take their toll, and this funeral march became more funereal than march-like, hardly the Allegro maestoso that Mahler

called for. The dreamily escapist sec-ond movement, evoking the memory of a distant dance, turned out to be a slow-motion tour of a peasant hop with all the lilt of the Landler rhythms filtered out. The grinn reality of the third movement was not really frightful enough, as the music's sardonic edge was sof-tened by all too moderate tem-

Strong vocal contributions put the performance back on course, especially the unearthly, disembodied entry of the Venetian Sara Mingardo in .Urlicht. A true contralto, not a moonlighting mezzo, she sang with the glow of molten metal, and phrased seamlessly.

After an unsettled start, the Slovakian soprano Andrea Dankova also sang radiantly, showing off a small but glamorous voice. And the London Symphony Chorus, hushed at first and later full-throated, was on splendid form in the finale, which Chung controlled masterfully. The conductor's theatrical instinct showed in the way he steered it from the explosion of sound at the bursting of the graves towards an

JOHN ALLISON

on the rhythm

projects have included everything from a collaboration with Senegalese musicians to an album celebrating his predilection for jamming with the Grateful Dead, so his Creole band, embracing the music of Guadeloupe, barely raises an eyebrow. Just two of the is-lands percussionists, ka drum-mer François Landreseau and Klod Kiavue on ka drum and congas, were actually present for this one-off appearance, but the American saxoohonist let their playing form the basis of what he and his jazz-orientated colleagues played, rather than using it for a splash of rhythmic embellishment.

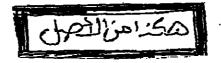
Kiavue, indeed, provided Gété, a rousingly percussive



opener with a rolling rhythm over which Murray, on tenor, and flautist James Newton played an infectious theme. Pheeroan akLaff kept asserting the springy Caribbean rhythm while maintaining the supple looseness conducive to jazz improvisation. Throughout, both he and bassist Santi Debriano fulfilled this role with great aplomb, pounding out lively, dancing rhythms that could be embroidered by the two hand-drummers and, simultaneously, provide a platform for Murray's multitextured saxophone and New-

ton's neat yet intense thate. Even the introduction of Guy Konket did not faze the rhythm section. Konket used his forceful baritone to great effect, chanting and declaiming over the chattering percussion and blending his voice, calland response style, with both Murray and Newton. Whether he or Landreseau was singing Murray's musical instincts ensured that the free adventurousness of the jazz element was allowed to flourish in this unusual setting.

CHRIS PARKER



West Room

12.75

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In the namesake 1 no cigar of comedy

373.6 PM aving never knowingly been in the company of anybody called Nuala, I found that this show allowed me to encounter three at the same time: two blonde and one brunette. It is the same distribution of hair tints that occurs in Fascinating Aida, so perhaps a showbiz rule requires all song n comedy girl threesomes to be coloured thus. Nuala (rhymes with hula) may or may not be their real names, but it is what they call one another. Not even Tall Blonde Nuala or Shorter Blonde Nuala: just Nuala. "Nuala." says another Nuala, "will now sing Bridget the gen, or Curly Kale, the Girl with the Cabbage Head." And Nuala begins. with Nuala and Nuala sharing the vocal backing or taking over from Nua-la for verses two and three.

Becomingly togged out in midthigh frocks of pink plush, these Irish twentysomethings sweetly sing of grotesque misfortunes, set to a lilting tune of the sort more usually found as-sociated with the scenic beauties of Tralee. There is Curly, for example. whose green head made her feel so unwanted at school, until the day came when teacher fell down dead on an excursion to the Burren and Curly saved her classmates from starvation by letting them chew her from the neck up. This self-sacrifice was duly recognised by Rome and now she is the patron saint of vegetable plots.

The Nualas have mastered the deadpan delivery, the devilish irony that soon entices an audience into their world where men are bastards - of course, that comes with the territory - but where their bastardly anpics are unusual, even for men. The ongs must be composed by the metheds of free association: start with a cycling nun, exhaust her, send her to Lourdes to be healed, slip her into the Tour de France - "Go, Bridget, go!" - and so on to glory.

ine Milalas Drill Hall W1

man to the state of the state o

Likewe the astonishing riff by brunene luala, the one I first fixed in my min as Scholarly Nuala, comparing avoman looking for a man to a jug of ilk waiting on the kitchen ta-ble. Varius cups of tea arrive, keen to mix, it they're all bastards, and as time asses the description of her souring potents becomes ever more graphic to counter this comical attack on len, there is the equally remarkab hymn in honour of the actor Donid Sutherland, not the most obvious we-object for three girls in plush - You're Canadian but we don't fin you boring at all!"
At ontime the threesome looked

as thoug each might stay within a consiste character role, the other two beig Severe and Scatty. But though evere Nuala continued to look stelly at us and mutter complaints ito her mike about the lighting, andhough Scarty Nuala's hair became lore tousled, any naive distinction etween them would soon crumble They share the narrative bits and le frank put-downs of showbiz celeb and each has a turn at introducin the songs with remarks

sometime as comic as what follows. Anyorl in the front rows dressed curiously will have these features courteouty pointed out. Identities may be listed upon us, such as the fellow naned as that great Irish jazz musician helonious Mahoney from Co Meat I laughed a lot, and when they skiped off behind the glittering backdrofor the last time, I was truly sorry to le them go.

EREMY KINGSTON



Two double beddings

🖪 wo people, a record company A&R man and a personnel manager, meet in a shabby hotel miles from nowhere. After initial hostilities, and fuelled by drink, they spend the night together, parting as strangers. In a parallel universe the same thing happens. Exactly the same circumstances, exactly the same result. But these two Epeople react both to circumstances and each other differently, and what happens in beend of their almost identical encounters takes a different turn. Meanwhile, in another parallel universe . . .

And so the merry-go-round goes on in Suspect Culture's latest dissection of relationships among what used to be called Generation X, the latetwenty and thirtysomethings for whom nothing is ever easy. Taking its cue from their last major work, the brilliant Timeless, which looked at the secrets and lies between four



friends, Mainream, at the MacRobert Ar Centre, peels back the layers personal artifice even more leavesdrop on late-night secres and morn-ing-after awkwrdness we can all recognise. Aimple enough exercise, but spect Culture like to make e difficult for themselves, and the dizzying permutations at result from having four ators play two characters leads no avenue of intimacy unexpored.

Developed or a lengthy devising process his is a typically immaculatiniece of work from the mo adventurous. most in-tur-with-the-times theatre compay in Britain. As David Greig crisp script jump-cuts beteen first meeting to final pating, the effect is akin to Sling Doors as penned by Halld Pinter. The

four-strong acting ensemble of Callum Cuthbertson. Kate Dickie, Paul Thomas Hickey and Louise Ludgate are kept on their toes as they switch between time zones as well as: characters, while other liaisons are glimpsed in a second playing area.

But it is the director Gra-

ham Eatough who appears to

have left his signature all over Mainstream. All the stylistic tics from Timeless are here, including the heightened use of gesture and Nick Powell's gorgeously evocative soundscape, but they are used to even more personal effect as Mainstream explores the secret lives that go on behind the mask of a profession. Where the repetition of the piece could grate, it hypnotises and seduces you deep into the heart of this Brief Encounter for the end of the century. Something very similar is probably going on in a hotel room near you right now.

NEIL COOPER

made that bit up, admits Christine Molloy, one half of the performance duo Desperate Optimists, about her assertion that, just before he met that fatal icepick. Leon Trotsky had written the words "there must be another way".
It is a clear warning for the

audience at Play-Boy. the company's tendentious evening of theatrical bricolage at the Project at the Mint, not to be too credulous. When it comes to history, you have to suspect your sources. But although Molloy and her partner, Joe Lawlor, are keen to offer such warnings, the pair still retain high expectations of their audi-

Play-Boy brings together chunks of other people's texts. videotaped interviews, a little mariachi song and dance. some gunfire and a whole lot of fake blood in an effort to connect some ostensibly disparate facts and events of 20th-century history.

But if the show involves outlining intriguing and perplexing coincidences. Desperate Optimists are not joining up the dots for anyone. There

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A New Play

PHEEP MARJORE

Linking and thinking

Play-Boy Dublin

may be a few hints about the links between the testimony of the film director Elia Kazan at the McCarthy hearings and the riots that accompanied the original Abbey production of John Millington Synge's The Playboy of the Western World. but the show still leaves plenty of room for an audience's mental participation.

Some things do become clear as the music plays and gunshots ring out. Violence is one of the key elements that unite the company's chosen texts, whether it be in Molloy's account of the murder of Trot-

tration, nor promise easy rewards. A better definition of vital theatre would be hard to

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment complied by Marit Hargie

LONDON

BARTHOLOMEW FAIR: Little ence Boswell's joby production of Be Jonson's rumbustious comedy transfers from Stratford.

Young Vic (0174-928 6363). Open tonight, 7pm. in repertoire. ORFEO AND EURYDICE. Choroogra-pher Martha Clarke returns to ENO to direct her 1997 production of Cluck's sublame reteiling of the Greek myth. Countre-t-enor Artur Stafanowitz sings Orphous, with Margaret Richardson as Eurydice. Roy Goodman conducts Collisioum (0171-632 8300). Opens m (0171-632 8300). Opens tonight, 8pm 🖒

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA LONDON SYMPHONY ORIGHESTRY.
The aminera Lonn Meazel performs a
treble act in two concers where he is
conductor, composer and solicist. On
offer are the UK premiere of his Mussic
for Violan and Orchestra, with Maazel
as wolin solicist, framed by pieces by
Bandok, Krestler and Tohalkovsky,
Bertifican (0171-638 6891). Tonight
and tomorrow, 7.30pm (2)

VIA DOLOROSA. Five performances only of David Hare's thoughtful and poignant account of a searching visit to Israel and Palestine. da (0171-359 4404). Opens

CONDON PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA: The versable America soprano Cheryl Studer turns her americon to Richard Strauss as she poris the orchestra in a performance of the Sextet, interlude and Finale from Capricote. Also on the program as 8 sectionaria 5 flora 5 monthoners. me is Beethoven's Eroca Sv Jukka-Pekka Saraste conducts Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7 30pm. (5)

ELSEWHERE

BIRMONGHAM, Birmingham Royal Ballet opens the Hippodrome's ner season with the jounty, foot-lapping Hobson's Choice, David Bintley's



Orpheus and Eurydice returns to the Coliseum

family fevounte is danced to the memorable metodies of Paul Reede. Hispodrome (0121-622 7485). Opens tonight.7.30pm. (§)

MANCHESTER: The Tallis Scholars under their lounder and conductor Peter Philips celebrate 25 years of distinguished vocal endearour with an evening of choral music by the 16th-century composer Tavemer. Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000), Tonight, 7,30pm. (6)

LIVERPOOL. The joint 50th anniver-sary of the death of Richard Strauss and Viezslav Novok is marked with a concent by the Royal Liverpool Phil-harmonic Orchestra under Libor narmonic Orchestra under Loor Pesak, Works by both composers leature, including Strauss's rarely periomed Duet — concerno. Philharmonic Hati (0151-709 374s). Tonight, 7 30pm. (5)

m Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the manywoman difference back to the caves. Apollo (0171-494 5070)

☐ HOWARD CRABTREE'S WHEN

PIGS FLY: Off-Broadway hit comedy about putting on a musical revue

emphass on laven costumes and difficult performers.

Arts Theatre (0171-836 3334).

O'Rowe's rightmare account of Dublin's vicious underworld feuds. Mike Bradwell directs Aidan Kelly and

HOWIE THE ROOKIE. Mark

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London ■ House full, returns only D Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

☐ GOODNIGHT CHILDREN EVERY-WHERE: Pichard Nelson's lascinating study of a lamily's expectations after separation in the Second World War. Ptf (0171-638 6891). THE NUALAS, Insh all-out saturcal

singing the bring harmony, hilarity and a sharp look at humanity. See review, right Drift Hall (0171-637 8270). O SHOCKHEADED PETER: The

Scissorman is back: wonderfully smister show by the Cultural Industry learn with the Tiger Lifes and Martyn Jacques's talseto screech. Lync, W6 (0181-741 8701). 40

☐ BAREFACED CHIC: Fascineting Aida play here for a month before setting off on their fallest national tour. This time Carle Peters directs Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800). ② AND THE BROTHER TOO: Earnon Momissey returns to the mimi-table comic writings of Flann O'Bnen. revealing more about "Yer Man" and his cunous view of the world. Tricycle (0171-328 1000). DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:
Mark Little makes his West End debut

☐ LE CIO: After ten years Declar Donnellan directs Cornelle's 1637 classic again, this time performed in French (English surrates). Recoved an ovation at the Avignon Festival. Riverside (0181-237 1111). (2)

Bush (0181-743 3388).

D COPENHAGEN. Hersenberg mystenously calls on Niets Bohr in wartime Denmant. Michael Frayn's enjoyably mitaligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore Orects. Duchess (0171-494 5075)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

AFFLICTION (15): Paul Schrader's bruising portrait of a frustrated cop in a small lown. Nick Note and James Coburn put in powerful performance as letther and son, caught in a cycle of male violence.

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18): David Kare's buzzy comedy charts the mess six Carnden Town misfits make of their love lives. With Kathy Burke, Jarmer Ehle, Douglas Henshall, Dougray Scott, Catherne McCormack and lan Hart.

HOLY MAN (PG): Eddie Murphy's naive guru and Jell Goldblum's sleazy TV executive team up to sell channel. Chastly stuff.

FOREIGN LAND (ICA): Strangely gripping underclass thriller about two young exites set in Brazil and Lisbon. young exites set in Brazil and List A trumph of quality over quantity. Directed by Walter Salles.

NEWS FROM THE GOOD LORD

CURRENT

comedy into the Holocaust, It's supremely well acted, but the comic treatment of survival in a death camp

YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS (19) Net LaBute's ser-obsessed cornedy of marrier; tracks the arme nes of six yuppie, thirtysomethings With Nagrassia Kinsiv, Aaron Eckhad DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART

(PG) Jenny Seagrove and Anthony Edwards star in a quirky Valentine comedy where they outrat the destardly denties, Charles Dance **HIDEOUS KINKY** (15) Falle Winskill

Plays a naive young mother who takes her two young daughters on the hippie trail to Morocco in the early 1970s. Beautifully shot fam by Gillies Mackimon with Said Taghmaour, Beita Phza and Carne Mullan A BUGS LIFE (U): A colory of cure.

A BURSS LIFE (1)" A colony of cine, hald-working ants are terrorised by a deirinquent geing of grasshopper. Dazzing, burg-yead perspectives from braney and Pinar make tins a correct feast for kids. John (Toy Story)

SHARESPEAR IN LOVE, with a strugging, upstart Whitam Shakespeare, with senous quill problems; sevual as well as why A cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard Gwyneth Patirow excels as the Bard's cross-dressing muse. John Madden directs

David Her The second second

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DOCTOR DOLITTLE

Starting PHILLIP SCHOPLES

THAS IS A SURE-FIRE HIT (TV

PURE PLEASURE Deby Mad Book, music & lyncs by Leste Bricusse

to wane that the facts seem to speak freely. This is not an approach that a company can take on lightly, all the less so if the intention is to create something more than a multimedia seminar in cultural studies. But the company's challenge is to make their discussions hold up in front of an audience with relatively straightforward expectations: that is to

cussions or the frequent earrattling reports of blanks fired

on stage. A link also appears

to be made between violence.

colonialism and isolation. But

somehow it is only when the urge to join all the dots begins

say, they have to make an evening of talking about theatre into an evening of theatre. In Play-Boy the company succeed in creating a bristlingly engaging evening of performance. The show does not ignore the straightforward pleasures of storytelling and pretending, but neither does it allow for any lapses of concen-

LUKE CLANCY

(ICA): Over-the-top French comedy from Didier Le Pécheur. Six weirdos go looking for an Author. Some surreal patiches of lunacy. SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG): Roberto Benioni's romanuc Second World

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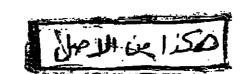
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PARIS GALLERIES

The genius of Rothko

ARTS

I IONDON GALLERIES

Russian curiosities

Long, dazed journey into night,

VISUAL ART:

Richard Cork

on important

Paris shows devoted to the genius of Rothko

and Hockney

nly a year before he com-mitted suicide in 1970. Mark Rothko made the Tate Gallery an exceptionally handsome gift of nine major paintings. Apart from reflecting his love of Turner's most sublime work, the donation conveyed Rothko's gratitude to a country where his art had already enjoyed warm admiration. Now, however, the great Rothko retrospective already shown in Washington and New York has bypassed London and ends its tour in Paris. So British devotees of Rothko's luminous, transcendent vision must make a pilgrimage to the Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville, where long queues brave the winter winds to pay homage to a master of Modernism.

To judge by the awed faces at the exhibition, visitors find Rothko well worth the wail I would go further. This is an exceptionally moving show, installed with lucid simplicity and select enough to avoid the risk of lapsing into monotony. Rothko's output was immense, and a large survey might easily make him look repetitive. Here, however, the organisers stop well short of overkill. And they are not afraid of revealing how long he took to dis-

cover his identity as an artist. Emigrating from his native Russia at the age of nine, the young Marcus Rothkowitz had good reason to feel insecure. His father died in 1914, only two years after the family settled in Portland, Oregon. To help to overcome the ensuing hard-

Rothko obliged to sell newspapers in the street. It was a miracle that he did well enough at school to win a bursary to Yale prise that he left before obtaining a degree. Already prey to the highly temperament plagued him throughout life, he studied painting in New

Rothko struggled for the next two decades to find his voice. A forlorn

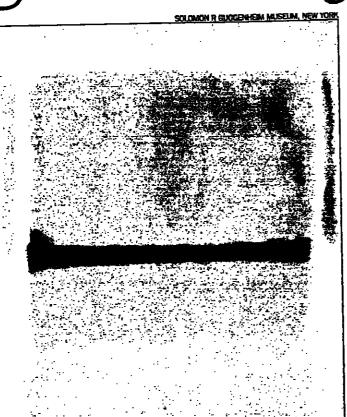
York instead

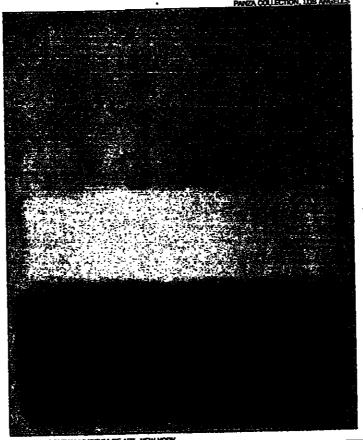
series of Manhattan subway paintings, each stressing urban alienation, indicate just how isolated he must have felt. Only with hindsight can we see how the stark, planar organisation of these subterranean images prophesies the structure he would favour in his mature work.

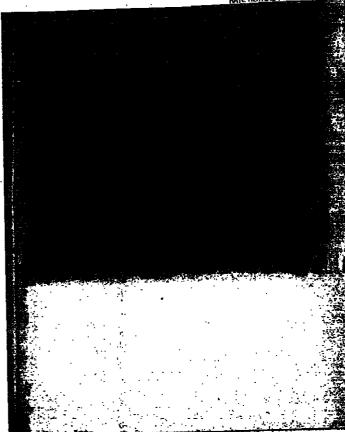
After 1940, when he began to exhibit under the name of Rothko, a new feeling of solidarity emerged in the New York avant-garde. He met Clyfford Still and Jackson Pollock, who shared his desire for extreme renewal. But the paintings he produced in the war years, riddled with mythological references and titles as mysterious as The Omen of the Eagle, seem fussy and starved of the epic, sensuous vision

he would discover later. The true breakthrough occurred only around 1948, when Rothko realised that he should discard all his unwieldy and obscure references to the past. Concentrating now on a few elements only, and unafraid to purge his canvases of all irrelevant details, he gradually discovered how to let bands, lozenges and strips of smouldering colour float on the picture surface. His brushwork became blurred, allowing his pigment to grow as vaporous as a cloud. And each component, whether as thin as a line or as looming as a land-mass, is allowed space to as-

sert its own character. From 1950 until his tragic death.







Rothko's art is essentially abstract. But we cannot help seeing in these great veils of orange, red, black, yellow or maroon a host of possible references to the visible world. The division between one element and its neighbour often resembles a horizon. We feel alone in the immensity of a bare landscape, gazing towards a sky suffused with the last. brilliant flare of waning light. Windows are evoked as well, capacious enough to encompass the vastness of an elemental view beyond.

No figures can be detected in Rothko's mature work, but it never feels impersonal. Even at their largest and most enveloping, his paintings seem surprisingly intimate. They relate very directly to our own experience of the world, although Rothko constantly suc-

• Rothko

struggled

for two

decades to

find his

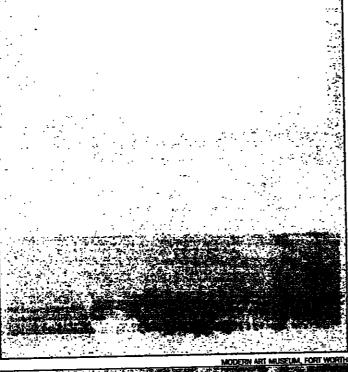
own voice ?

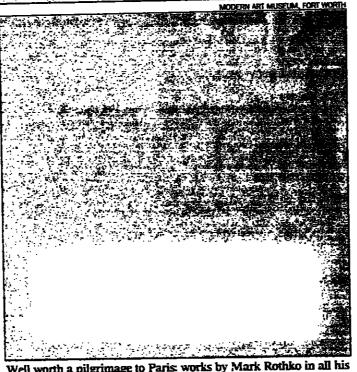
ceeds in conveying a sense of cosmic, unfathomable strangeness. The depression that overwhelmed him is disclosed with terrifying candour in the last room. Restricted now to a dour combination of black and muddy grey or brown. Rothko confronts utter negation. Darkness has descended, seemingly for ever. He could find no pathway out of

the gloom, and the final paintings are pitifully demoralised. Their pessimism is all the more shocking when compared with the boundless aspiration of the paintings he produced at his zenith.

fter this, it is a relief to find David Hockney: Space/Landscape at the Pompidou Centre. Displayed in temporary rooms, while most of the building is closed for extensive renovation, the survey commences with a witty 1962 painting. Here a demonic young Hockney and his friends refuse to look out of the car window as they race crazily through Switzerland en route to Florence. Since then, though, he has stared at his surroundings

more and more intently. Some of his finest 1967 Californian poolscapes are here, including A Bigger Splash, and by 1970 he depicts two friends gazing as if spellbound towards converging avenues of trees in a Vichy park. Two years later. Hockney painted the most seductive canvas on show here: a luminous, melting view of Mount Fuji, its liquid forms contrasted with the precision of a single flower isolated in a foreground vase. His subsequent fascination with fractured, distorting perspectives inspired by Cubism has led him to far more restless images. Pearblossom Highway, shimmering in the Californian desert, is





Well worth a pilgrimage to Paris: works by Mark Rothko in all his moods, both vibrant and gloomy, dating from 1949 to 1958

made from hundreds of colour photographs painstakingly assembled into a coherent view. The result is like a shanered musaic, reconstruct-

ed piece by piece. And it paves the way for an even more epic. multipart photographic collage of the Grand Canyon. Originally taken in 1932, these images now form the basis of two colossal canyon paintings executed last year. Displayed here at either end of the long final room, they are a tour de force of sustained, eye-bending observation.

Mark Rothko at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (0033) 53674000) until April 18: David Hockney: Space/Landscape at Centre Pompidou (9033) 44781233) until April 26

In the dingy

deeps of the dirty old city

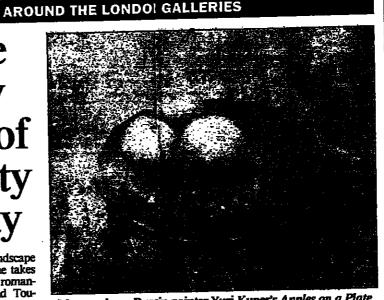
painter. Every summer he takes off to southern France, to romantic sunlit regions around Toulouse. For the rest of the year, as School of Art, he works in London. The cityscape becomes his subject - but not the pomp or lendour of the tourist brochure. Hepher captures the type of urban landscape you might glimpse as you crawl through the bowels of the capital on a train. His subiect is the bland reality of the high-rise housing estate, the 1960s dream gone wrong.

Against layered concrete and timber shuttering, tall rectangles cut stark geometries intended to echo the abstractions of Mondrian and De Stijl. As a teacher, Hep-her flashes his art-historical credentials. Between a tower and a graffiti-scrawled fence. Piero della Francesca's view of Arezzo is quoted. A glimpse of El Greco's moonlit Toledo crouches in a corner. But the soulless atmosphere of these works belongs to an altogether more contemporary age. Stains seep, graffiti sprawls, paint overflows like a blocked Flowers East 199-205 Richmond

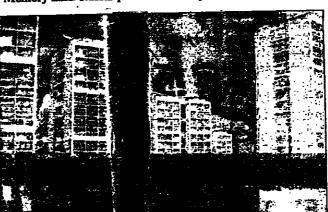
Road, E8 (0181-985 3333) until

☐ AFTER a suicidal period of depression and a long, slow haul to stability. is Cork Street back afloat at last, bobbing on the currents of contemporary art? The Helly Nahmad Gallery, which opened last year, is shortly to display the work of some of the most established names on the scene. And last week Robert Sandelson opened its doors onto a stylish new space at Number Five.

The art of the Russian painter and theatre designer Yuri Kuper forms the mainstay of Sandelson's first show. The viewer steps into a cabinet de curiosités, into a



Memory lane: Russin painter Yuri Kuper's Apples on a Plate



David Hepher's Stdy for Brandon Flats with Blue Stripe

poetic realm collage from scrounged bric-a-brac Antique copperplate writing, :llowing newsprint, old tins and ostcards and daguerreotype platt become part of the surfaces on wich muted, textured tones of pair are layered and left to settle, likthe dust of old memories. There a sense that nothing has been sturbed for years, that flowers meht have been found pressed between the leaves of a Victorian Bile. that the scene of the stage schas not been trodden for some 0 years. Kuper recreates the stillimelessness of some Miss Haisham's

This clashes stronglywith the show in a downstairs gairy dedicated to up-to-the-miute art. Here Micha Klein's gissy tableau of camp fairies josts for attention with a typically-ainterly Jack Yeats, or the squiff squares of a Bridget Riley. Antif mazelike lithographs by Loue Bourgeois appear to have bei chosen more for the name of ne artist than the merit of the work, this does little to detract from an otherwise fresh, heterogeneous show. Robert Sandelson, 5 Cork Street. WI (0171-439 1001) until April 9

□ Arabella Caccia is vivacious and expressive. She managed to spill a cup of coffee over Nicola Rae on the day that they first met. Nicola maintained a characteris tic serenity. But if the personalities of these two artists are different, their works are both rooted in the earth. Sifting and funnelling ground-down soil into Perspex boxes. Rae creates wonderfully tranquil pieces which surprise and soothe. Caccia is more dramatic. The hot landscapes of South Africa are the starting point for swirling meditations on spirituality and myth.

New Burlington Street Gallery, WI (0171-287 2466) until Saturday

RACHEL **CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON**

AMERICAN EXPRESS PROUDLY PRESENTS TOSC A SPECTACULAR IN THE ROUND! PRODUCTION OF PUCCINI'S PASSIONATE TALE OF LOVE AND INTRIGUE "Electric, sexy and right on weg" ". the authoric was breathless ..." "A meeting creating" TIME "_ eta-lang comp ..." "... bit home brilliantly ..." ... excellently directed ..." EYEMEN STURBURD considerable brilliance ..." THE GUARDAY ...". a real essentible performance..." THE MORTHMORN __intelligent, highly explicit staging handsome, traditional designs ." THE OSSENTER

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GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

Age: 21 Profession: Director

Education: St Paul's and Oxford. "So predictable." Beginnings: Directing Dr Faustus at school at lo with a

£600 budget. "That's the joy of going to a rich institution." Oxford edecticism: He mounted productions of Entertaining Mr Sloane. Ghetto, Peer Gynt, Someone to Watch over

Me, The Taming of the Shrew Useful experience: "I acted at school and university, which was good grounding for a di-

Big break He is assisting John Crowley, the director of Macheth, starring Rufus

MARK ROSENBLATT Sewell and Sally Dexter, arriving at the Queen's Theatre to-

> Straight to the top. then? He was spotted by Theirna Holt. producer of Macieein, while at Oxford, Holt was Cameron Mackintosh Professor of Contemporary Theatre there in his final year. She also saw his touring production of The Taming of the Shrew in Japan.

Eastern promise: "We went to Kyoto, Osaka and Tokyo. where we performed at the Globe — it's carpeted, a combination of authenticity and middie-class comfort. All the venues were very different, and I had to redirect and let the actors grow into it. I learnt to be obilosoppical - I didn't much like the show myself."

Royal command: "The Crown Prince and Princess came to the Tokyo Globe and I sat in a hox with them."

Any mentors besides Theima Holf! Richard Eyre was her predecessor at Oxford. "I went to the National Theatres studio with my Peer Gynt company. We did an acting workshop with Fiona Shaw, voice sessions and singing."

What does "assisting" on Macbeth entail? "I rehearse the understudies and do little bits when the director asks me. It's a brilliant learning ex-

Training? There's a shameful lack of formal training for directors in this country. The best way to learn is through practical experience and I've been lucky."

Future plans: "I'm hoping to direct a show in a regional theatre studio, but I can't talk about it yet. Then, sometime, I may have a go at starting my own company."



HEATHER NEILL Mark Rosenlatt spotted by Theima Holt while at Oxford

Parsifal

New Production February 26 at 5.00pm March 6 | 13 at 4.00pm Tickets from 28 - 260 **Box Office** 0171 632 8300

Chaebols ust reform

LLERIES

Michael Knipe presents a four-page report on the economy, finance and investment taking place in South Korea

Spirit of revival ready to greet Queen's visit

anniversary of President Kim Dae Jung's term of office tomorrow with prepara-tions under way in Seoul, the capital, for an eagerly awaited state visit

by the Queen in April.

There are hopes that this royal occasion will set the seal on the country's remarkably speedy turnaround from the financial crisis it suffered when it was forced to turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$58.35 billion (£38.3billion) loan. That was in De-cember 1997, after four decades of astonishing growth averaging 8 per cent a year.

Today the shock of the economic collapse is still apparent. Unemployment rates are expected to rise still further. But the belief is strong that the worst may be over.

There have been a series of indicators in the past few weeks that the programme of radical reforms introduced during the past year by the Kim Dae Jung administration are having the desired effect. Today our usable

exchange reserves exceed \$50 billion," said Mr Lee Kyu Sung, the Minister of Finance and Economy. In 1997 they had sunk to \$4 billion so we have achieved a very dramatic increase.'

Mr Lee highlighted other firm signs of revival: the exchange rate against the dollar, which a year ago spiralled to 1,950 won, has stabi-



Foreign Minister Hong

exchange reserves, which had dwindied to \$3.8 billion, are now at a record high of \$50 billion. Interest rates have dropped dramatically from almost 30 per cent to about 8 per cent and inflows of foreign direct investment last year totalled

\$8.9 billion — a record. In December, Seoul began repaying its IMF loan with an amount close to \$4 billion, the clearest indication yet, in the eyes of Hubert Neiss, the IMFs director for the Asia and Pacific department, that for South Korea the balance of payments crisis is over. "It is premature to open the champagne," said Hong Soon Young, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, with a wry smile. The

structuring. And restructuring, half finished, can be an invitation to another round of economic crisis.

"So this is no time for complacen-cy or too much optimism. The rules of a free market economy are not firmly in place in the minds and behaviour of the economic players. I believe it will take at least another one or two years before we have the vitality and momentum for economic growth." Nevertheless, in spite of these

words of caution, there is no doubt that the Kim Dae Jung administration believes it is on the right path. South Koreans are a modest people by nature, an ancient society overshadowed internationally by their richer Japanese neighbours and their more numerous Chinese

There are few obvious signs of the economic depression in Seoul. largely destroyed during the war with the North in the 1950s and now a modern capital of unlovely 1960s and 1970s monumental architecture, cut through by ten and twelve-lane motorways, and relieved only by a few elegant palaces from past eras. Pedestrians have been all but banished to underground shopping malls and crossstreet passageways.

However, the city has a thrusting dynamism. Platoons of elegantly uniformed receptionists are on hand in all official buildings, with numerous counter assistants, simi-



There are few signs of economic depression in Seoul: in some city stores staff wear clothes that are more chic than in Knightsbridge

larly attired, in modern department stores more chic. if anything, than their Knightsbridge and Fifth Avenue counterparts.

Bustling side-street shopping centres and street markets are open late and a modern and highly efficient underground and railway system is manned by staff as smartly dressed as military generals.

The Queen's visit will be her first to the Korean peninsula. It was pencilled in or, her prospective agenda. well before the financial crisis occurred. At that time, Korea's star was burning bright. It had the eleventh-largest economy in the world ahead of Russia, Australia and india - and was the world's twelfth-largest trading nation. With a population of 46 million it had a

economic terms, it was the biggest country that the Queen had not visited.

As a result of the financial crisis. it has probably slipped down the economic league table somewhat over the past 15 months but what South Korea has lost in terms of its economic standing it has made up for in its democratic progress.

When the presidency passed to Kim Dae Jung, it was the first time that power had been transferred peacefully and democranically in Korea for 50 years. So the case for the royal visit to go

ahead in April is, if anything. stronger: it will show that Britain is not just a fair-weather friend and will demonstrate support for the

per capita income of \$10,000 and, in democratic changes that have tural reforms and free market ideoloccurred.

Relations between the two coun-

tries have been traditionally warm and they have been further enhanced by the fact that during his days as political dissident. Presi-dent Kim Dae Jung spent a year in Cambridge in 1993, based at the graduate college. Clare Hall, While at Cambridge he was a popular figure, befriended by his neighbour Professor Stephen Hawking - and he has since stated publicly that this period in his life was highly instrumental in what was, in effect, part

of his preparation for high office. Koreans will see the Queen's visit as a tribute to their democratic and economic reforms. This is considogy of the Thatcher years are held in high regard in Seoul.

We are using Britain as a role model in seeing what government agencies can be delegated to the private sector," said Dr Kim Tae Dong, Senior Secretary to the President for Policy and Planning Affairs. "We hope the British experiment can be repeated in Korea. We firmly believe that the systematic and long-sustained reform can produce sustained growth as it did in

For Koreans, said Mr Hong, the Queen represents British values: So this is how we appreciate Her Majesty and, particularly as this is

Chaebols must reform

¬ he top five chaebols, the family orientated conglomerates that dominate the South Korean economy, are now the prime targets of the Seoul Government as it presses ahead with the latest stage of its programme to reform the country's fortunes: cor-

porate restructuring.

The five — Hundai, Samsung. Daewoo, LG Group (formerly Lucky Goldstar) and the SK Group (formerly Sunkyong) - together with about 50 smaller chaebols, were for several decades the prima-

ry engines of growth for the South Korean economy. Howeber, their numerous and diverse subsidiaries. which borrowed and spent recklessly - amid frequent accusations of corruption widely for the bringing the country to its knees eco-

nomically. Under pressure the country's fortunes President Kim Dae Jung's administration. the top five chaebols agreed in December to undertake a series of reforms including putting up for sale their marginal and unprofitable units and to focus their activities more directly on their core sectors. But the battle of wills between the

Government reformers and the

chaebol tycoons is not over. "Several of the top figures own only 5 or 6 per cent of their conglomerate's shares but act as if they own 100 per cent, and are resisting the reforms the Government is introducing," says Dr Yoo Jong Keun, the Governor of the North Cholla Province and a senior economic adviser to President Kim Dae Jung. "That can no longer be tolerated. For some the overriding concern is to maintain control of their businesses but some will be in danger of losing it."

Dr Yoo, a former economics professor at Rutgers University, is an influentual figure in the President's team of reformers and describes himself as "public enemy No 1, as far as the chaebols are concerned".

The top five have committed themselves to shedding 91 of their subsidiaries through mergers, liq-uidations and sell-offs to foreign business interests. They have also undertaken to repay external debts owed by other subsidiaries to improve their financial standing.

"Last year we devised a very specific plan to restructure the top five chaebols," says Lee Ki Song, the Minister of Finance and Economy. This year we are making sure the plan will be implemented on schedule. We are determined to ensure that they concentrate on their core areas of competence, that they do not digress from this and that they achieve a debt ratio of 200 per cent by the end of the year. At present the top chaebols have an average of 27 subsidiaries each. And each one of them is running businesses in some 20 different industries. We are determined that this kind of diversification will disappear and when it does I expect Korean companies to re-emerge in the interna-tional market with much improved competitiveness *

The three other areas affected by the reform programme are the public, labour and financial sectors. In the public sector five of 24 non-financial state-owned enterprises have been privatised in stages this year and another six will be

by 2002 including Korea Telecom and the Korea Electric Power Corporation, as well as 76 subsidiaries. The process will involve cutting the labour force by 30,000, a 21 per cent fall. We are not go

ing to stop there," says Dr Kim Tae Dong, the Senior Secretary to the Reforms are helping to revive President for Policy and Planning Affairs. "All gov-

ernment ministries are under management review by outside teams of consultants. No other country has attempted this kind of reform. The purpose will be to decide which government agencies can be delegated to the marketplace." A campaign to eliminate exces-

sive regulations has so far scrapped about half of nearly 12,000 existing rules. According to Kang Bong Kyun.

Senior Secretary to the President for Economic Affairs, the economic restucturing programme should be completed this year and the economy should return to normal growth next year. But, he says, it will be another three years before the country regains the \$10,000 per capita income levels it had before the onset of the financial crisis.



Tycoon works for tips

espite signs of economic ment in South Korea is at its highest since monthly statistics were first compiled 16 years ago. It is expected to rise to two million this year — more than 8

per cent of the workforce. Job losses have hit every level. These are explosive statistics in a society that, even under a series of authoritarian regimes, became internationally notorious for violent strikes and demonstrations.

One of the Kim Dae Jung administration's first steps was to pass legislation allowing busi-nesses to lay off workers. For Koreans, who had taken lifetime employment for granted, it was a dramatic step away from tradi-

At 62. Sun Sang Rok felt he was secure as vice-chairman of the Sammi Group, once the country's 26th-largest conglomerate. But in the turmoil of the economic crisis, he lost his job and so went on a waiter's training course at a large hotel in Seoul.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The new laws provoked a strike at the Hyundai Motor Corporation that became a test case. Resolved after a month by a programme of lay-offs, unpaid leave and early retirements, it was seen as a significant victory for greater industrial labour flexibility

The Government also created a tripartite commission comprising representatives of trade unions, industrial management and the Government to handle labour relations. But, with the unemployment rate increasing, the prospect of more industrial unrest is looming. Angry union activists have criticised the Government and corporate heads for unilaterally laying off workers in the

name of restructuring. The trouble is that you cannot make unemployment disappear. There is no such solution," says Dr Yoo Jong Keun, an economic adviser to the President. "The UK has been through this. What we are having to do is direct our efforts to extending the welfare safety nets so that our unemployed are not destitute."

Last year the Government spent \$8.5 billion extending wel-fare benefits, says Dr Kim Mo Im, Minister of Health and Welfare, and her budget this year will increase by 25 per cent. "We are placing the emphasis on improving welfare benefits and retraining people for new jobs in new sectors."

Shelters have been set up for the homeless unemployed, and dole pay-outs extended from three to six months. Public work projects have been created and retraining programmes developed.

The relative absence of serious labour unrest in the past year, as Koreans rallied to support the Government in the face of an economic crisis, was an important element in the recovery. Foreign investment was anoth-

er but, if labour unrest occurs now, it will be very difficult to attract more foreign money.

Reign of the bank-tamer

ee Hun Jai is diminutive in stature and - wearing a navy blue cardigan in his office in the centre of Seoul - he projects a mild and charming demeanour. Yet Mr Lee is the Korean Government's chief financial hatchet man, charged with ending decades of collusion between banks and chaebols, the family-orientated conglomerates which dominate the South Korean economy.

Since April last year he has forced the closure of five Korean banks, the merger of four others,

closed down lo merchant banks and four life insurance companies. Dozens of finance companies have been shut down and the banking sector was ordered to shed a third of its workforce - 40,000 people

Mr Lee currently has seven more insurance compaand expects to

close down at least three of them. Naturally, he said, there had been lots of resist-

ance to such closures.

It was, after all, the first time in Korean history that such a thing had happened. Everyone believed that banks would never go under because they had the Government behind them.

However, a year ago the economic collapse coincided with the election of a new Government which imposed a programme of radical economic reform

Mr Lee does not make a big thing of it but, according to his staff, the responses to his actions were so threatening, initially, that, for safety, he moved discreetly out of his house and into his wife's art studio and various hotels.

The authority Mr Lee exerts

stems from the fact that he is chairman of the South Korea Finance Supervisory Commission, the Government's watchdog body responsible for ensuring that Korea's banking and financial services comply with international standards of probity and transparency.

Since November 1997, said Mr Lee, 40.9 trillion won (about \$40 billion) had been spent on restructuring the financial sector, including nearly 20 trillion won on the purchase of 44.1 trillion won worth of non-performing loans held by fi-

> A good start had heen made he said, but much more needed to be done. One of the important most things he said, was to change the mind-sets of the banking managements who had worked so long in an environment in

nies in his sights Lee Hun Jai: threats made him umbrella of govmove house and stay in hotels

which, under the ernment protection, financial insti-

tutions had indulged in questionable lending practices. Reckless lenders had been paired with reckless borrowers. Chaebols pursued excessively leveraged expansion based on a "too-big-to-fail"

The cosy relationship between the banks and chaebols was revealed when the Hanbo Group one of the 15 biggest industrial concerns - collapsed in January 1997. A loans-for-bribes scandal emerged and a rash of bankruptcies ensued.

Mr Lee is now focusing his anention on corporate restructuring. The measures being used include the phasing out of cross guarantees, the reduction in dept to equity ratio, debt workouts with bank creditors, reductions of affiliates

and the elimination of excess

capacity. There had been much progress in restructuring the small and mediums sized groups, he said, but this was proving more difficult with the big five — Hyundai, Samsung, Dae-woo, 1G and SK — whose structures and affiliations were extremely complex.

The big five sold 35 affiliates to foreign companies last year and have stated that they will dispose of another 91 of their subsidiaries through mergers, liquidations and sell-offs to foreign business interests this year.

He has urged the creditors of the big chaebols to force financial reform during the first half of this year. If the chaebols failed to reform themselves, the Government would force through the necessary changes, he said. It would take time but, he predicted, by the end of this year it would have been achieved fundamentally.

The net losses of Korean banks last year hit a record high of 14.48 trillion won compared with losses of 3.88 trillion in 1997.

Doors open for inward investment

he British-based Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation was chosen this week by the South Korean Government to take over the majority shareholding of the ailing Seoul Bank. It is only the second Korean bank to be sold to a foreign enterprise. The first was the Korea First Bank which was purchased last month by an international consortium headed by the United States-based Newbridge Capital.

The announcement of the second sale came only days after Stephen Brown, the British Ambassador to Seoul, publicly expressed his regret that British companies, with what he said were very good bids, were consistently losing out to American investors. His comments, in an interview with the English-language Korea Times newspaper, was seen

as an expression of disappointment at the sale of the Korea First Bank to the American conglomerate and an indication of the competitive pressures among the international community to acquire a toehold in South Korea Incorporated

Foreign direct investment into the country totalled \$8.85 billion last year, a record high and a 27 per cent increase on 1997. The Government's target for this year is

Of this UK investment amounted to \$60 million, a slight increase over the previous year. And if British Telecom's investment in Kurea's LG Telecom - which was made through the BT affiliate in the Netherlands - is added on the total of investment amount from the UK surged to \$457 million. This month has seen two major

INVESTMENT

British investments. PowerGen UK is investing \$210 million in LG Energy, a subsidiary of the LG Group, to build a 528 megawatt gas-fired combined cycle gas turbine plant at Asan Bay in South Chungchong Province. It will be the first power plant constructed in Korea by a private company. And British Aerospace has won a £46 million contract from the South Korean navy w develop and produce the combatmanagement system for three 5,000-tonne South Korean destroyers. Meanwhile, Tesco is setting up a joint venture firm with the mar-

keting division of Samsung. "In the past Korea did not pay altention to the need for foreign investment," said Park Tae Young, try and Energy. In 1996 it was only 24 per cent of GDP compared with more than 20 per cent in the UK. But since the extent of the financial crisis became apparent the public

Attracting foreign investment is now a top priority and the Government has shifted the direction of policy towards promoting rather than regulating it. The types of business eligible for tax reduction or exemption has been expanded from 265 to 533 and foreign investment zones have been established in which incentives are offered to foreign investors who create new

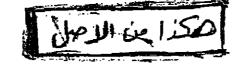
At present foreign investors receive benefits only when their indi-

the Minister of Commerce, Indusvidual investment exceeds \$100 million. But in an effort to entice more small-scale foreign investors, the Government is considering providing tax incentives to groups of small companies engaged in simihad come to realise that it was an lar lines of work if their aggregate imperative element of economic reinvestment amounts to \$100 million. "Now we are allowing even hostile mergers and acquisitions of Korean companies by foreign companies and foreigners can also own

> promote venture capital enterprises. "I believe that if we can combine British advanced technology and capital with Korean manufacturing power then companies here will be able to enhance their competitiveness considerably, so I expect more investment from Britain," Mr

real estate here." Mr Park says.

The Government is also keen to



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Friends or foes?

Michael Knipe reports on a pale glint of sunshine

fyou use a pair of binoculars to peer through the winter mist across the demilitarised zone between South and North Korea, you can just make out the shape of a North Korean border guard in a watchtower, staring back. This, the world's most fortified border, dividing the Stalin-

ist North from the democratised South, is one of the last

remnants of the Cold War.

A South Korean soldier points out the buildings of Khungdong which, he says, is a fake North Korean village. There are no fires and no laundry hung out to dry.

When the wind is blowing in the right direction the North Koreans occasionally dispatch balloons carrying leaflets extolling the virtues of their President, Kim Jong II. But the confrontation along the demilitarised zone (DMZ), just 27 miles north of Seoul is, at present, mostly uneventful.

The most recent North Korean defector to cross over made his move five months ago and there has been no shooting across the border for at least a year. North Korean propaganda, which used to blast across the DMZ through huge speakers for 18 hours a day, now spouls forth for no more than five hours a day. "That's because the North is so short of electricity," says Corporal Park Min Woo.

The shortage of electricity, like the rash of attempted escapes across North Korea's northern border into China, are signs of the desperate economic plight of the Pyongyang regime and are of great concern to President Kim Dae Jung's Government in Seoul.

On taking office, the South Korean President embarked on a "sunshine policy" aimed at achieving peace on the Korean peninsula through reconcilation and co-operation with the Pyongyang Government. Opposition critics fear that in the face of the North's development of long-range missiles



Warriors and peacemaker soldiers at the border and Chung Ju Yung with his cattle

and a suspected nuclear facility, this approach may prove to be nothing better than a policy of ameasument.

The Government in Seoul rejects this. Hong Soon Young, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, says: "Our policy is that the North Korean regime must be warned sternly of the penalties they face over such provocations, but that these should be seen in the context of inter-Korean relations and in no circumstances should there be overreaction. There should be no black or white reactions to acts of provocation. This is what diplomacy is all about."

Instead Seoul is trying to promote what it describes an atmosphere which will help Pyongyang to start reform of its own volition. It is actively pushing for South-North cooperation and exchanges. There are indications of positive change of a limited but distinct nature, says Mr Hong. The regime is lessening its state of isolation and showing signs of taking account of mar-

Kim Hyting Kee, the head of unification policy at the Ministry of Unification, points to the

Government's policy of allowing private-sector exchanges across the border. The most speciacular of these was orchestrated and then led by Chung Ju Yung, 83, the founder and honorary chairman of Hyundai, the largest of Korea's conglomerates.

Last June he became the

first South Korean civilian to enter North Korea across the DMZ at Panmunjom. Accompanied by TV cameras, he took with him 500 head of cattle which, it was hoped, would help to improve North stock. A gift to the people of his native Tongchon district, the animals were transported on 50 trucks specially built by Hyundai for the trip and also donated to the North. On his return, Mr Chung sent a further 500 head of cattle and donated 50,000 tons of grain, spending a total

of \$8.5 million on the venture. In November, Mr Chung began offering South Koreans cruise trips through the East Sea to view Mount Kumgang (Diamond Mountain), a North Korean peak of great symbolic significance to Koreans. The passengers were the

visit the North since the peninsula was divided half a centu-

one of the passengers reported that the sightseeing area they visited was extremely limited and that they were not allowed to deviate from the designated course. They had no opportunity to make contact with North Koreans. The few people they saw beyond the barbed wire were expressionless and indifferent to them "as if we weren't there".

In spite of these drawbacks. Mr Chung has more ambitious plans. The Hyundai Group has obtained exclusive rights from the Pyongyang regime to develop tourist facilities on and around Mount Kumgang. It plans to invest \$397 million by the end of next year to build ski resorts, golf courses, condominiums and hotels. Hyundai has already paid \$2.4 million to the North from the Mount Kumgang entrance fees: Hyundai is also drawing up a masterplan for the development of an industrital area of 66 million square metres on the west coast of

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PHYUNDA

Jennifer Veale reports from Seoul on an imminent political dogfight, while Ruth Taplin examines the benefits of UK-Korean business deals

Polmis im Dae Jung, the South Korean President, starts his second year in office this week, a turning point which looks certain to mark the end of his honeymoon with some old-fashioned political brawl-

Suring an impressive debut year, the former dissident has won respect worldwide for his determination to implement a political agenda aimed at opening up a shuttered economy in the face of powerful vested interests. But 1999 will prove the acid test of his capacity to

make the really tough decisions.

President Kim faces mounting political challenges. After lying low for most of last year while the Gov-ernment went about fixing the economy, the Opposition is now exploiting the exasperation of a recession-hit public to stir protest against painful reforms to the powerful conglomerates (known as chaebols) with which it has close ties. In addition, the President's unlikely coalition with the man who headed korea's spy agency during his dissi-dent days is looking shaky over de-lays to landmark reforms to the po-

But the challenges issued by the opposition and the chaebols are becoming President Kim's biggest headaches. They are spoiling for a brawl over the key element of his economic reforms — business swaps and mergers known as "big deals" which have been designed to trim back the sprawling conglomer-

A year of political blood-letting beckons. The opposition Grand Na-tional Party accuses President Kim's National Congress for New Politics of discriminating against chaebols from the GNP's southeastern strongholds. It also challenges strong-arm tactics that it says the Government is using to push the

"big deals" through.
"The honeymoon is over." says Jon Gryn Mo, a political science professor at Yonsei University in Seoul. "Basically, for the first six months, President Kim could do whatever he wanted. Now everyne is showing signs of resistance."

The GNP lost by a whisker at the last election, ending a 50-year monopoly of political power by conservative parties. But it has regrouped and is mounting a fresh challenge to President Kim's coalition Government. Lee Hoi Chang, the GNP leader, has accused President Kirn of acting like a dictator and of fanning chronic regional antipathies by discriminating against areas outside his political stronghold in the southwest provinces.



Steering the country out of troubled times: Kim Dae Jung, the South Korean President, is optimistic about his country's future

Honeymoon over for champion of reform

Driving the GNP's resurgence is ment to stop force-feeding reits fear that it may be reduced to a rump if the NCNP succeeds in eroding its power-base in the southwest provinces, as it must do to win reelection in its own right. Already the NCNP has secured a House majority by poaching two dozen of the opposition's law-makers.

Currently, the proxy war being fought is over the Government's plan to trim back the operations of the chaebols, whose loan binges contributed to the economic crisis. These "big deals" will result in

sweeping lay-offs.

The GNP claims that most job losses will hit its power-base of South Kyongsang Province, where most of the top chaebols are based. It has drawn strength from a disgruntled public fearful for their jobs, and is calling on the Govern-

The state of the s

forms down the throats of

The GNP's determination to make this year a difficult one for President Kim was exemplified at a protest rally it staged late last month against a planned "big deal" between Samsung and Dae-woo. The rally served as a wake-up call for the Govern-

"The Government was stunned by the turnout and the people's mood," Professor Jon Gryn Mo says. But it has since picked up the scent of discontent and recently began peacemaking moves with the GNP, the fruits of which have not yet ripened.

A year of political brawling beckons as

resistance

paign to dilute the virtually unchallenged power of the President by vesting more power in the Prime Minister, who would be responsible to parliament. While fighting a pumped-up op-position, the NCNP also has prob-

cause of delays in

implementing polit-

President Kim, a

champion of de-

mocracy. pledged

during his cam-

ical reforms.

Kim Jong Pil, the current Prime Minister, has recently been outspo-

ken about his desire to see his coalition partner make good on the promise. While the NCNP insists home. Its alliance with the United Liberal Democrats. that it will act on its pledge, it has been put on the back-burner as the conservative Government tackles the more former spy agency boss Kim Jong Pil, weighty matter of economic recovery: is under strain be-

"Kim Jong Pil isn't expected to sit idly by if the President ditches that promise," says Professor Lee Jong Hoon, a political scientist.

In an ironic twist, the Opposition's campaign to wreck the NCNP's bid to establish political hegemony may be in Kim Jong Pil's best interests.

Observers say that parliamenta-ry reforms to appease the coalition partner will be pushed down the NCNP priority list if it believes it can win an election without the

Adventures in joint ventures

INVESTMENT IN UK

orean outward investment to the UK has slowed. With the economic turmoil forcing the chaebols to restructure, the resultant selling and exchanging of assets has become a preoccupation for them.

Samsung, for example, has sold its automotive sector to Daewoo and the latter has sold its electronics division to Samsung. Meanwhile, Samsung is consolidating its electronics division in the UK and is moving its headquarters from

Frankfurt to London.

Hyundai is in the final stages of buying the semiconductor division of LG, including the new semiconductor plant in Wales. It now remains to be seen what Hyundai will do with the operation planned for Newport in South Wales.

Daewoo continues to be a stable source of employment and investment in the UK, with its automo-tive division showing signs of substantial success.

The emphasis in relation to investments lies at present with those companies seeking venture capital and joint ventures. Venture compa-nies in Korea are defined as ad-vanced technology businesses that achieve growth through continuous research and development which amounts to at least 10 per cent of turnover.

The most important component of the Korean venture industry is the high level of education of the Korean workforce. The majority of engineers, for example, hold PhDs and most have been educated in the United States. Some Koreans study in the UK, and universities in cities such as Newcastle are attempting

to attract greater numbers. Korean venture companies produce many innovative products but require greater capital investment to commercialise their internationally competitive technologies and products. Some are now linking themselves to the chaebols. which have the global sales mar-kets and the foreign capital re-quired. However, there is a big drive under way to attract foreign

investors to the UK. Last November KOTRA, the Korean trade organisation, brought to the UK representatives of a wide range of venture companies, in areas ranging from electronics to textiles, some of whom were suc-cessful in finding joint-venture partners in Britain.

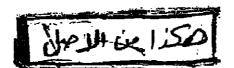
The majority of Korean companies go to the US for their capital. but the UK is now seen as more promising, as the nature of venture capital is becoming more flexible. Successes in such partnerships in the long term can only benefit inward investment into the UK as joint ventures flourish, providing capital returns to British investors and, in the future, new factories and employment.



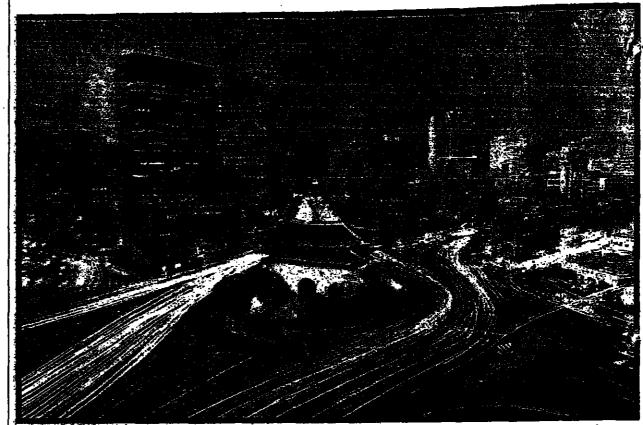
Daewoo's automotive operation in the UK is proving a success







Get smart and get out of that jam



Korean traffic at night: road improvements and intelligent transport systems are helping to remove congestion

raffic is heavy in Seoul and other big Korean cities, largely because of an excess of cars and excessive roadbuilding. But a number of bold initiatives are being undertaken to deal with traffic

This is leading to greater co-operation between the UK and South Korea in the field of intelligent transport systems

A two-week mission to Korea by ITS Focus, a British transport research organisa-tion, supported by the DTI, was impressed by the success of one Korean initiative to deal with traffic congestion. This is based on the use of a high-tech e-commerce-based smartcard.

Pusan, the second largest city in South Korea, loses \$1.3 billion each year because of traffic congestion. To combat have introduced the Hanaro ed last August. (buy only one) smartcard sys-

Ruth Taplin reports on how co-operation between the UK and South Korea could help to improve road and rail travel

people to use public transport.

The card can be used to pay for bus, minibus travel and the underground rail service in Pusan. An electronic purse model is also available which can pay for taxis and goods in shops. The simpler prepaid card is more popular and allows for fare discounts if used regularly. The take-up has been 76 per cent of the 200 million commuters targeted since the problem, the authorities the Hanaro system was initiat-

> The British mission also noted that unlike the UK, the Ko

rea Highway Corporation (KHC) is helping to develop

will relieve overall traffic congestion, and it has initiated a new era of expressway building. The intention is that increased road capacity will be built with an integral ITS linked to a network of regional traffic control centres.

road traffic conditions that

Despite the country's economic turmoil these ambitious plans are continuing. The ITS mission believes that UK companies can learn from these

plans and members can also

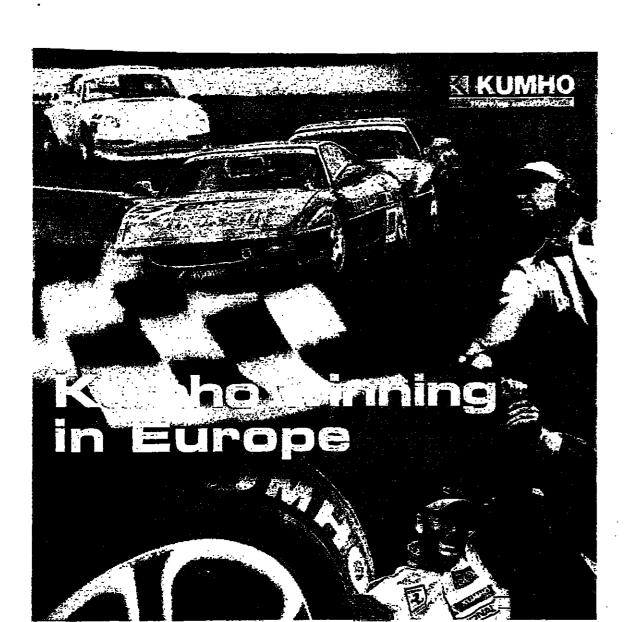
offer supportive services to the Koreans to further the plans. Co-operation and collabora-

tion between the UK and Korea in the realm of automotive development takes many forms and is invaluable for both sides. Since Daewoo Motors came

to Britain, for example, the AA has been providing purchasers of its vehicles with a threeyear free servicing warranty and roadside assistance package. The association also provides a recovery and replacement car service.

So much emphasis has been placed on takeovers and swar deals of major chaebols that the success of other smaller conglomerates which provide necessary components - par-ticularly in the transportation sector — sometimes 20es un-

Kumho Tire, for example, through using the latest hightech equipment, is constantly improving its tyre quality and



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RACING: LOSS OF 1,000 GUINEAS FAVOURITE AND DOUBTS ABOUT PIONIC MAR CLASSIC OUTLOOK

Bint Allayl put down after injuring leg

By CHRIS McGrath

BINT ALLAYL, the champion juvenile filly and favourite for the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas, was put down late on Monday night after a frantic battle to save her after she sustained leg injuries during exercise

Her death not only deprives the forthcoming Flat season of one of its most huminous young talents, but is also a ghastly blow to Mick Channon, whom she had helped reach new heights in his auda-

Yesterday's meeting at Sedgefield was called off because parts of the course in the back straight still had frost. The fixture was to have been the first at the track since three horses were killed in an horrific collision there last Tuesday.

cious second career in sport. Though Channon is not the type to be deluded by his breakthrough achievements last year, even he must feel shocked by so savage a re-minder of his new calling's uncertainties.

He was typically lacking in self-pity yesterday. "You can only be positive in a situation like this," he said. "We were lucky to have her and now we have to move on. Tomorrow morning, we'll go out to work and see if we can find another one. It's tough on me, sure, but it's tough on the staff and the



Bint Allayl wins the Lowther Stakes at York last season on her way to being acclaimed Europe's top juvenile filly

owner, too. Sheikh Ahmed has plenty of horses, but he thought an awful lot of her."

The trainer added: "Everyone is very disappointed, but it's the business we're in, I'm

If any of Bionic's ante-post supporters are cynical enough to scent profit from the tragedy, however, they will thoroughly deserve the torments in store during the coming weeks.

Henry Cecil, her trainer, confesses that Bionic's foot problems menace her participation in the Guineas. His first priority, however, was to express sympathy for the calamity that claimed her long-

time market rival. The irony is that Channon had only retained the services

of Bint Allayl against two more obvious threats. She dodged the draft to Dubai with Godolphin, and also underwent surgery on a hock, which denied her what Channon might justly consider "a penalty kick" for the Cheveley Park Stakes. That fell to Wan-

the Lowther Stakes at York.

non's allocation has been dounabe Grand, whom she had Anthony beaten with customary flair in Stroud,

said: "While doing a routine canter Bint Allay! suffered a complete spiral fracture of her left-fore humerus. She was given emergency first aid on site and transported to Donnington Grove Veterinary Surgery." Here five experts strove in vain to rescue the filly. Stroud added: "Sheikh Ahmed would like to thank them and their staff for their tireless efforts, Mick Channon, who trained her so well, Candy Morris, who rode her, and her dedicated lass. Alwena Jones."

The Green Desert filly had shared 5-1 Guineas favouritism with Bionic in the Tote's betting. Bionic now has that dubinus honour to herself, at 4-1, followed on 9-1 by Moiava and Etizaaz. Ladbrokes, better attuned to Cecil's problems, prefers Moiava as favourite at 7-1, with Bionic as big as 9-1.

Even that price will make no appeal to anyone reading Cecil's frank update. "She has problems with her feet and it's a question of whether we can train her with them," he said. "It will put itself right eventually, it's a matter of the time we have got. She has been cantering, but not just lately, as she had a corn that had to be cut out. That's not her major problem. She is trotting now and I hope she'll be cantering by the

Bionic was restricted to just one appearance at two, impressing in a Goodwood maiden, so she will be sorely lacking experience even if Cecil can get her to the classic.

end of the week."

McCoy escapes lightly from heavy Ludlow fall

By Chris McGrath

TONY McCOY often appears as indestructible as he can be invincible and the champion jockey was certainly lucky to escape serious injury at Ludlow vesterday.

Leading over the first in the novice handicap chase on Northern Drums, McCoy was thrown to the ground and trampled underfoot by the following field. He lay motionless before being stretchered by ambulance to Hereford Hospital for X-rays. Happily, his vow leaving the course — "It'll take more

than this to keep me out of the Cheltenham Festival" proved no mere bravado, and he was later discharged with nothing more serious than a badly bruised right leg. How his colleague. Andrew Thornton, must envy his good for-tune. He makes a welcome return at Folkestone today, after

surgery on a leg infection at

the end of the year. The only inflammation at the annual general meeting of the Betting Office Licensees Association (BOLA) yesterday was verbal. Even here its chairman, Chris Bell, distanced himself from "fizz and froth" over the forthcoming negotiations between racing and betting industries on the

next Levy Scheme. He undertook to keep the "temperature of discussions under control" - and he may have gone some way towards that objective by extending something of an olive twig to the British Horseracing Board (BHB). He told his fellow bookmakers: "I am sympathetic to the challenges of the level of prize-money in racing, and I do want to see tar-

geted improvements."
Though he could see nothing remotely resembling a crisis in racing, he conceded that there is always room for im-provement. He was "not com-placent". He added: "Nevertheless, at its core the BHB Financial Plan simply does not reveal a state of crisis, except in one clear category - the owners' desire to have a higher level of financial return. On all other issues, in the main.

He added: "What we can do is ensure that, above all of those shrill voices, we patiently and comprehensively explain our position to those prepared to make reasoned judgments. There are lots of people in positions of responsibili-ty in bookmaking and racing

who fit that category. Peter Savill, the BHB chairman who has matched the early inflexibility of the betting in-dustry's hawks, expressed confidence that he could bring the Levy Board neutrals round to his point of view, "line by line". Certainly he will not shrink from that challenge.

3.35 Out By Night 2.30 Stormyfairweather 4.40 COUNT KARMUSKI (nap) 3.05 Tyrolean Dream 5.10 Wynyard Dancer Timekeeper's top rating: 4.40 YOUBETTERBELIEVETT. GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING **2.00** TETE-A-TETE **SELLING HURDL**E (£1,646: 2m 110yd) (15 runners) 1 000-00 BALLMA BDY 25 (M Browne) J Floderoid 6-11-3 M A Fitzperald C 000-00 BALLMA BDY 25 (M Browne) J Floderoid 6-11-3 M Floderoid 6-11-3 M Floderoid 9-13 C 0-000F MedBerts West Collect 84 (0.5) (W Theology W Theology 6-11-3 M Floweroid 9-3 0-2122 OVERSMAN 11 (R.D.S.5) (Marquess de Micratiat) J Flederoid 6-11-3 M Floweroid 9-13 0-2122 OVERSMAN 11 (R.D.S.5) (Marquess de Micratiat) J Flederoid 6-11-3 M Floweroid 9-13 M Floderoid 9-13 M Floweroid 9-13 M Floweroi seculium puntatesem 4-10-7 Saly Lyons (S0-1) B Hollinghead 20 cm The Ballins Boy (50, 1 4th of 17 to All Gong in involve headle at Docuster (17 4, good to soul). Occurrant sid 3rd of 15 to Radymour in seiling handle Cationick (2m, proof); provincely 7/24d of 13 to Purity Lore to seiling handle unth (2m, proof) provincely 7/24d of 13 to Purity Lore to seiling handle good). Wyndony Plyer 7-94 4th of 19 to Moosshire Dancer to seiling handle at Cation in the South Cation (2m) is these feet to 13-mount 4yo covince selfing handle at Cation mer over 61 at Yannbush kors on Pair when hinds theheven 61 and 91. Lobushe left handles Make has netword well be stated when the self-to-

2.30 MINNOW NOVICES CHASE (\$2,999: 3m) (7 rumers)

mytamentier, 9-2 Zafe Cover, 6-1 Sizan Deer, 28-1 Mr Perlapp, 33-1 ethes.

1998: SRANGE COURT 8-11-4 A P McCoy (3-1 tay) i Williams 12 izan

AN bes performed well in dutest since winning in this grade lest mouth

Issue: conjunct. Littlett 8-11-4 A P nitCoy (3-1 kg) i Williams 12 lan

Grate Does 458 689 of 14 ip The Need Wate in bandicap classes at Catteriots

(3m 11 110yd, good to soft); previously best Littleth Communications of the State of Haydock (2m 4), good to soft). Statemyfathwester 311 3rd of 6 to Planky Wood knupodes medicap classes at Challanham (2m 5 state, previously 12 3 and of 5 in
State Cardon in movies classe at Sandson (2m 41 110yd, pood). Mr Parturgo presented 12 3 and of 5 in
State Cardon in movies classes at Sandson (2m 41 110yd, pood). Mr Parturgo presented indic to novice classe at Housingduc (3m, soft) with Grand Caryon Sheets; publied up. Take Cover 1441 2nd of 3 in Tuckers Town in novice
bandicap classes at Patentiam (2m 51 110yd, soft).

STREMOVER THE TAMES THE Transfer on the furnishment for the furnishment of the Tuckers Town in novice NEATHER meets to protect up his temping but should make his class tell

3.05 TOTE HURDLE [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£5,885: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

1992: MORDANCE PRINCE 7-497 it Williamson (5-4 lar) Mich V Williams 8 ms
Tyrofean Desent 79 Sh of -10 to Waltha Sands is handson hands guide 2
at Revbury (2m 116yd, good to soft), who Singer Fox (1-6 hades of)
at Ascal (2m 116yd, good to good), Revbursy text Assign June 4 in 17 rotes resists hands gade 2 at Chellesham
(2m 110yd, good to god), Mathryuts Pet heat Sansado (40 better of) 2 in 11-rotes beddeep hands at Concaster (2m 110yd, good to god), with Time For Action (100 better of) 31 in 11-rotes beddeep hands at Color 13 Sh. Chessic Englis next 2nd of 8 to Martylano to treatice; hands a Construct (2m 10yd, good to god), with Time For Action (100 better of) 31 sh and where it (100 better of)
31 Sh. Chessic Englis next 2nd of 8 to Martylano to treatice; hands a Contract (2m 10yd), saint of, the
She of 9 to Nocksky in bandscap hards at 1 handscap hards at Walterby (2m poor to soft; predously 24 3rd of 8 to Couldnard in bandscap hards at Walterby (2m party (2m poor to soft; pred-

HOH BOVADER bossis useful force in newton company and may have got in lightly here.

KVI	SNOW REPORTS		
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Aspen	138 185 Good 222233 Good		
Dear valley	2262301 13000	- Dues sto	

3.35 LIBERTY BELLS HOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,253: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners) Long bandicap: Caunityean 9-8.

1998: GLAMANG-ITZ 8-11-10 A P NaCov (5-2 km) P Dation 11 can

B The One 22 3rd of 12 to Loaks Life Trouble in survice classe at Doncas
lar (3m, good). Manastis 1942 and of 7 to Moor Lane in storice classe at Doncastir (2m 2f 110yd, good to settly with Lanp in storice classe at Doncastir (2m 2f 110yd, good to settly with Lanp in The Dark (18th better of) (3m, good): previously 8 2nd of 5 to Apaches Flower in heardicap based in Southwell (5m 110yd, good to settly with Lanp in The Dark (18th better 18mm). Verywell 45 list of 5 to Mapur Rend in movice classe at Ultimater (2m, settly Loss at Ultimater (2m, settly Loss at Ultimater (2m, settly Loss) (3m). Verywell 45 list of 5 to Mapur Rend in movice classe at Ultimater (2m, settly Loss) (3m). Verywell 45 list of 5 to Mapur Rend in movice classes at Ultimater (2m, settly Loss) (3m). Verywell 45 list of 6 to Mapur Rend in movice classes at Ultimater (2m, settly Loss) (3m). Verywell 45 list of 6 to Mapur Rend in movice classes at Ultimater (2m, settly Loss) (3m). Verywell 45 list of 6 to Mapur Rend (4m). Verywell 45 lis

4.05 CANALICULATUS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-0: £2,303: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

4061 CHRISTIAMSTED 19 (C) (J Doddy) F Murphy 11-4 A Magaine 424510 SHRISAL 12 (BF.D.S) (Ford Associated Racing Team) D Nicholson 11-4 R Johnson 22208 LAMERING LAD 90 (Falsenod International Ltd) A Balley 10-12 S Wynne BETTING: 7-4 Christiansted, 9-4 Ergel, 5-1 Pagen, 6-1 Lambrini Lat., 8-1 Year-Bog Clock, 25-1 others. 1998: DOYENNE 10-7 & Bradley (25-1) Mrs O Haise 9 nm

Christiansky (20-1) MRS U Heite 9 cm.
Christiansky Deal Repeated 5 in 17-maner 4yo novice hardle at Catteriot.
Tim., goods, perviously 38 (69 of 10 to Soldes Rate in 3yo marker hardle at Rate (2m, benny). Enrigel 671 in 18 of 17 to Rober John to morbe hardle as benny. Enrigel 671 in 18 of 17 to Rober John to notice hardle as benny. Enrigel 671 in 18 of 17 to Rober John to notice hardle as Harman modes hardle at Revention (2m 4, soil). Lambdin Lad 27 6th of 11 to Orden in 3yo notice hardle at Utineter (2m, soil). Pagas harged at stallly to so middle-distance markers when hardle the pass Chamsal on the Ref. Travelling Chock 50 6th of 16 to Ref De to Chesse in novice hardle at Conceptor (2m 4, good) with Maleian is 3o (30- better oil) putted up.

The native Chamsan communications of the chamsan communication of the cham

The ex-trick CHRISTIANISTED was a starte costs on his debut for Festiv Mannin and can billion in

4.40 DOVE INGS HANDICAP CHASE (\$2,960: 2m 3f 110yd) (11 runners)

Long handkap: Deset Stave 9-9, Jason's Boy 9-7, Austher Red 9-1. BETTINGS 7-2 Hantbocent, 9-2 Courd Harmurski, 8-1 Jaszon's Boy, 7-1 Haron-Ho-Ho, Lass Try, 8-1 Another Red, 10-1 Yuubstitzbellevall. Filterbog Mikrasie, 16-1 olbers. 1998: LIDBSTER COTTAGE 10-12-0 Mk R Waldey (8-2) K Belley 7 van

1998: LOBSTER COTTAGE 10-12-0 Mr. R Walder, 69-2) it Bulley 7 ran

Youtheristerbellevelt (et in headicap chase at Station) (2m-11 110yd, good), previously 23 3rd of 5 to Blungale in novice chase at Chapston (2m-3) and a previously 23 3rd of 5 to Blungale in novice chase at Chapston (2m-3) and a chase at Locaster (2m-11)(yd, good) to from; Know-No-No-193 and of 10 to Symboles in Headicap chase at Locaster (2m-11)(yd, good to sol); Previously 194 and 5 to North you for in blandharp chase at Chanes (2m-3). Count Kartoccid beat Misser Glory 4 in 8 -runour headicap chase at Chapter (2m-3), good), previously best Darros (2m-3) and the solid blandharp chase at Chapter (2m-3) and chase at Chapter (2m-3) and (2m-11) and (2m-11

KNOW-NO-NO, best on a sound exchara, ran well have latest and should have conditions to surf

5.10 JACK SHIPE MARES ONLY INTERMEDIATE OPEN MATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,515: 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

TOMAL HUNT FLAT (£1,515: 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

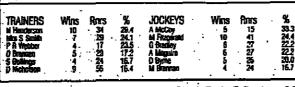
11 BALLER 23 (0,F.5) (Editative Enterprises Ltd) J Neville 5-11-12 R Supple BALLYNCOOLEN (2 Norten) J Neville 5-11-2 C Ruster (7) BALABOLEY (1 Hermiton) B Notined 5-11-2 C Ruster (7) BRATHAY MAJE (6 Cactle) D Edity 5-11-2 M A FEDDER AND FEDER AND FEDDER AND F BETTAKE 5-2 Ballet K, 4-1 Wyspard Dascer, 5-1 Brahay Majir, Goodbyne Lady, 8-1 Rovers, 10-1 Villan, 16-1 Mychosen Lady, 20-1 olbers.

1998: CATHEORAL BELLE 4-10-6 G Lea (7-2) Mas Al Revole: 17 atm

1988: CKHHERAL BELLE 4-10-6 G Les (7-2) Max At Resetts; 17 rish

Solit-K best Early Daisy 11 in 3-unner marge patients have that Aff (2m, solit); previously best Dragon Lord 31 in 15-unner entional hard first case at be 50tyl's Son in mational hard fir reset of Mercet Resen (1 in 51 i 10)ed, good to firm). Festival Leader 33 fish of 22 to 50tyl's Son in mational hard fir reset of Wervield, 2m, sould, Econothrone Lady Good Theye Alfy and at Alphy-econd name. Matchesse Lady 27 rin of 10 to Notice Atlait to restore hard that for expecting the first case of Affaces Sonia 22 140 to 17 to Little Fennote to matide met hard first after 10 ford, and in form). Supervisions Sonias 22 140 to 17 to Little Fennote to matide met hard first a Porth Carl 10 yell, and in form). Why yell of Dancer 28 and of 7 to Waterlaw in extended hard first acce at Utbootter (2m, good to firm). Referent 13 7 in of 15 to Engold City in marker extended best first absorption to good to somy with Gray-mass High (levels) 325 118. Trynsentoe 17 7th of 12 to Berton Bill in regional band first case at Coloric Con, con). Villiam 7v-1 4th of 18 to Court Complant in national level first first case of Control Congress of the Court Complant in national level first first case of Control Congress of Control Congress from the first case at Lordon (2m, soil). WYNYARD DANCIER is horn a good turnly and shaped with process and season on her debut

COURSE SPECIALISTS



BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doncaster: 3.05 Classic Eagle. Folkestone: 2.20 Swan Street, Charlie Chang. 3.55 Keen Bid. Wolverhampton: 2.10 Sky Storm.

2.20 Summer Flower. 2.50 Hot To Trot. 3.25 First Instance, 3.55 What A Fuss, 4.25 Sunczech, 5.00 Monks Scham.

the

Carl Evans: 4.25 Hall's Mill.

Channon still had much his

best season, showing great as-surance in handling his first yearlings from Sheikh Ahmed

al-Maktoum, for whom he

also won the Gimcrack Stakes with Jost Algarhoud. Though

that colt did go to Dubai, Chan-

Sheikh's racing manager,

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

2.20 STANFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,660: 2m 1f 110yd) (14 runners)

21,000. 211 11 10-5-5, 1 1 1240 RGLENATION 19 (CD.S) Mrs L Jeneti 5-11-10 Mr S Stronge (7) 73 ## 253P SUMMER FLOWER 7 (D.F.S) Miss Z Davison 9-11-4

A hvine (7) 7-7

B hvine (8) 8-7

B hvine (8) 8-7

A hvine

14 OFP6 LALLY THE FILLY 19 Mrs 8 Waring 8-10-0 3-1 Golden Faum, 5-1 Inclination, 11-2 Summer Plante, Word Chang, 10-1 Addiov, 12-1 Sman Street, Sprintlayre, 16-1 others

2.50 LYMPNE NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,387: 2m 6f 110yd) (10) -211 SKIPCARL 44 (D.S) Mass H Anight 7-11-11

3.25 GAY RECORD CHALLENGE TROPHY (HANDI-CAP CHASE) (£2,406: 2m) (9)

4-9 Hot To Tiol, 3-1 Skipsart, 6-1 Kellys Coronest, 20-1 Ambrosia, 33-1 Editorial, 50-1 Daisy Revia, 66-1 Parito Cissen, 100-1 others.

11-4 Duagogo, 3-1 First Instance, 4-1 Calvaro, 9-2 Hispot For Heaven, 12-1 Inch Frohic, Sept. Mac, 16-1 No Palkern, Tel E Thop, 25-1 Smarl Guy

3.55 DAVID BENGE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,107: 2m 1f 110yd) (16)

1 -026 KERRY'S DATS 16 P Hedge 7-7-1-12 ______ M Richards 70 2 -0P1 WHAT A RUSS 9 (D.S) Mics: H Kingfe 5-11-12 (7ed) L Catterina (3) 3 3-44 BRSH OPTION 180 J Efford 6-11-11 ... P Hidt 4 36/0 FARY KNIGHT 71 N Bailey 7-11-9 ... Edgar Byrne (7 5 0000 SECOND HELPING 101 JR Best 5-11-6 ... J J Best (7) 6 4151 PARK ROYAL 19 (5) J R Best 5-11-6 ... J J Bookstein (3) 7 0453 BERKELEY SOLIARE 40 (8) C Weedon 4-10-11

4.25 TENTERDEN MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE

[£1,096: 2m or) (11)

1 PS-2 A RIGHT SET TWO 39P (BF,6) Ms Mickelie Drive 7-12-8
Mr N King (7)

2 Q-P RESSDE HIMSELF 2SP N Lampad 6-12-8
Mr S Ronge 6-12-9
Mr S Stronge (3) 4 LILL-1 HALL'S MILL 38P (G.S.) Miss S Wason 10-12-8 JAr A Charles

5.00 FOLKESTONE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,265: 2m 6! 110yd) (8)

3-1 Be My Mot. 7-2 MATERIOUTI, 6-1 Equity's De ling, 7-1 Saleet, Monts Solten, Foun-tain Bid, 8-1 Kenthord Tina. 10-1 Peninsula Boy

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER 2.10 Golconda, 2.40 C-Harry, 3.15 China Castle. 3.45 Daawe. 4.15 Joseph's Wine. 4.50 High

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 ROTTWEILER MAIDEN STAKES (£2,759: 7f) (8 runners)

4-6 Golcoota, 11-2 French Space, 6-1 State Wind, 7-1 Sex Belle, 16-1 Broughtons Mai, 20-1 Cantabella, 33-1 Etlandennn, Sio Storm.

2.40 PARTRIDGE CLAIMING STAKES (£2.097: 7f) (10)

1 - 666 STATE OF CAUTION 15 (B.(D) K Burke B-9-5 _ D Sweeney 2 - 445 - MR PARADISE 64 (D.E.) W Mais 5-9-2 _ ___ Martin Dwyer 3 - 9-2 TROUMN HERO 9 (D.E.) Eta 81 Reveley B-8-12 _ __ R Cachmare 4 (215 C-HARRY 7 (D.E.S) R Hollinshead 5-8-12 _ __ R Cachmare 5 _ 30-1 PORGASE BIO 47 (E.C.) June Sevy 5-8-12 _ __ M Tabbadi 6 (1254 POLAR MST 18 (V.C) Mrs N Marantoy 4-8-11 _ _ P McCabe 3-1 C-Harry, 4-7 Trojan Hero, 5-1 Elife Hope, 6-1 Mr Pavalise, 7-1 Pota Misi, 10-1 Forcing Bad, Fayro, 12-1 others.

3.15 WOODCOCK HANDICAP (£6,068: 1m 4l) (6)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRABERS: 5 Woodward, 4 winners from 14 cunners, 28.6%; M Bell. 18 from 76, 23.7%; M Prescool, 26 from 114, 72.8%; M Johnston, 47 from 242, 19.4%; J Pearce, 18 from 89, 18.2% JOCKEYS: N Carlax, 4 where's from 18 notes, 22.2%, A Cochrane, 19 from 165, 18.4%, G Fauliner, 11 from 70, 15.7%, T McLaugelin, 25 from 171, 14.6%, D Sweetsky, 18 from 125, 14.4%,

B P463 JOHDAMAR 51 (BF) Deruck Monz. 7-10-8 M Backelor (S) 9 4355 BROWMALLOW 12 (B) Max B Wang 6-10-7 ____ E Byrns 10 544- SIPWA 271F D O'Brien 5-10-6 _____ J Culloty 11 FRP-MR LERIO 282 Mix A Pened 6-10-4 ____ B T Brombon 12 35PO DALIGHTER BY LAW 77 Mixs C Caros 6-10-4 ____ D Lealty 13 QOP KEEN BIO 98 (B) Mrs L Richards 8-10-2 ____ C Librustlyn 14 ODS MSCONDUCT 28 Mix M Lones 5-10-0 ____ W Marston 15 OPO FRAME OF MINO 35F (B) F Jordan 4-10-0 MR R Fornistal (S)

7-2 What A Fuss, 5-1 kish Option, 11-2 Bartaley Square, 7-1 Park Royal, 8-1 Kerry's Oats, Misconduct, 10-1 Farry Knight, 12-1 Johdaner, 14-1 others

(£1.096: 2m 5f) (11)

Mr M Gingali (7) —
8 P/PP SIT TIGHT 25P (F) Mass S Pilitington 10-12-8
Mr S Monris (7) —
9 3-P2 TOMCAPPAGH 18P (8F,6) Mrs S Wall 8-12-8
Mr C Goodon (7) —
10 1-12 TRUE CHINNES 18P (6) Mrs D Grissell 9-12-3 __Mr P Hacking — 11-4 Hain's Mill. 7-2 A Right Ser Toro, Torocappagh, 9-2 Sunceech, 5-1 12-1 True Chienes, 33-1 Phanton Slipper, Sairy Snacks, 50-1 others.

1 1225 BE MY MOT 42 (CD.G.S) D Grissall 7-11-10 .N Williamson 101 2 16P SALEEL 18 (CD.S) Mrs L Wadsen 7-11-8 Mr R Fornsall 5) 100 3 3316 MRLMOUNT 9 (B.CD.G.S) T McGoven 9-11-0 X Abgroup (3) 106 4 -245 KENTFORD TIMA 46 (G) J Mollius 8-10-11 ... A Seles (3) [ET3] 5 2136 PENNESULA BOY 12 (G) P Boven 6-10-10 ... W Marston 91 6 PROS MOUNES COMMAN 27 (ES) C Hutchard 11-10-6 L Barber (7) 117 -001 EOUTY'S DARLINGS 19 (ES) D Others 7-10-1 ... J Cuttery 104 8 0424 POUNTAIN BOD 9 (BF,6) R Dean 7-10-0 Mr N Fethy (7) 105

COURSE SPECIALISTS

JOCKEYS: Y Algurn. 3 winners from 6 (ides, 50 0%, A Fornstaf, 3 from 8, 37.5%, A Wolfenson. 13 from 44. 29.5%, A Thomson, 4 from 25, 16.0%, P Hide. 7 from 56, 12.5%, J Kasanagh, 7 from 57, 12.3%.

3.45 JAY HANDICAP (£6,039-51) (7)

2-1 Solonem, 5-1 Previo Luva, Mangos, 6-1 Palacegate Jack, 7-1 Classy Cleo, Daawe. 10-1 Prefe Cli Broson

4.15 PHEASANT SELLING STAKES (£1,898: 1m 100yd) (13)

1 1540 BURNENG & (B.CD.F) N Literaden 7-9-13 T G McLaughlin 9 2 0-21 JOSEPHTS WINE 11 (B.D.F.G) J Witerton 10-9-13 3 D145 KINSCHIP BOY 9 (D.F.G.) M Ryan 10-9-13 — P McCabe 6
4 D0-6 RGHTER SOLUADRON 27 (B.F.G.5) H Peaceck 10-9-8
5 0000 MUIT D'OR 4 (CD) M Warning 4-9-8 — R Price 1
5 0000 MUIT D'OR 4 (CD) M Warning 4-9-8 — Daris O'Ned 10-7
4 300 AMMSTON GRI 11 (8.D.6) P Frend 4-9-3 — S Welthombron 3
8 00-0 CHASIKA 18 (F) A Bafley 4-9-3 — J Bosley (F) 7
9 -00.5 R YUNG TOULGH 27 N Luthouster 4-9-3 — J Santing 13
10 -0-03 STRAVSEA 12 B Baugh 4-9-3 — A Cultimote 10-0-03 STRAVSEA 12 B Baugh 4-9-3 — J Paraning 13
11 -503 LADY CARGURE 4 M Johnston 3-5-3 — J Paraning 13
12 -01-2 RGH BALLERWA 9 (B.RF) D Carrol 3-8-3 — D Swessey 2
13 400- VENTURE ESLAND 161 W Marson 3-7-12 — F Norton 5

9-4 Risch Baßerina, 7-2 Lady Casoline, 6-1 Kingchip Boy, 8-1 Joseph's Wine, 10-1 Straessa, 17-1 Burning, Santone, 14-1 Others.

4.50 LIFE BEGINS AT 40 HANDICAP (£3,649: 1m 1f 79yd) (9)

l- i Van Gurp. 11-2 King Prinss. 6-1 Diamond Flame, Prospection's Cove. High Hoee. 7-1 Sustach, 8-1 Sarstoga Red. 10-1 others.

Fitzgerald at Kempton

MICK FITZGERALD will ride at Kempton on Saturday rather than partner Fiddling The Facts in the Greenalls Grand National Trial at Haydock. Nicky Henderson is planning to run Cheltenham Festival fancies Makounji and Katarino at Kempton, with Richard Johnson taking over on Fiddling The Facts.

Youlneverwalkalone, a leading Irish hope for Chehenham, has met with a setback and will miss the Festival Bumper.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ludlow

Going: good 2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Sharbedarid (D J Burchel, 14-1); 2, Lidle Mss Lucy (50-1); 3, Tue Vision (11-2) Rusk (lell) 11-10 (av 41 ran 71, 21 J Price 7 Tole 13.20 52.20; 23.60, £1.90, DF: £35.70, CSF, £467.27. 2.30 (3m ch) 1, Cardingtord Gale (Mr K R O'Ryan, 3-1 lav), 2, Moorland Highlityer (4-1); 3, Lay It Off (12-1) 12 ran. 10, 5 r George, Tole, 54 10, 52 30, 51 80, 52.90, DF. \$10.40, CSF, \$13.39 Tricast, \$110.30.

3.00 (2m ch) 1, Circus Star (R Johnson 2-1 fav); 2, Charming Girl (9-2), 3, Cabal-lus (20-1), 11 ran. 4, 51 D Nicholson Tota. 23 70; 51 70, 51 30, 56.30. DF 57.40. CSF: 59.74

2.30 (3m 21 110yd hdie) 1, Milister Gener-neilty (N Williamson, 11-2 (I-lav), 2, Hood-writer (25-1), 3, Juliara (16-1); 4, Lady of Gortmerron (9-1), Snow Board 11-2 (I-lav 18 ran 24, 51 C Weedon Tote (4-80, 21.70, 55-00

4.90 (2m 4f ch) 1, Seebrook Lad (J A McCarthy, 16-1), 2, Machaim (14-1); 3, Symphony's Son (5-1), Rolical 2-1 lav 15 ran NR Rashskin 2, 3J. C. Monock, Tote \$17.40, \$23.80, \$2.90, \$2.30, DF, \$67.60 CSF: \$190.35, Tricast \$1,185.24

4.30 (2m hdle) 7. In Question (N Williamson, 5-2); 2. Basman (7-1), 3. Interdream (25-1) Fern's Governor 8-11 lav. 15 ran 12, 141. Miss. Venelia: Williams. Tote 24.00. £1 80, £1 80, £2 60 DF: £18.70 CSF: £17.49

5.00 (2m hdle) 1, Bañysicyce (T J Mur-phy, 10-1), 2, Nemsto (12-1), 3, Long Room Lady (25-1), Don Favruz (6th) 2-1 fav 15 ran 171, sh hd M Pipe Tote, £14.60, £4.80, £2.50, £3.20 DF £49.80 CSF: £106.78.

Placepot: £1.259.30. Quadpot: £47.30.

RICHARD EVANS

Nank MISCONDUCT (3.55 Folkestone) The Mercia Jones yard has struck form recently and the five-year-old looks on a leafent mark for her handicap debut over hundles Next best: Haridecent

Lingfield Park

Going: standard 2.10 (Im 4) 1, Benbury (P Clarke, 5-2), 2, Derrong Rio (5-1), 3, Waesef (50-1) Van Gurp l4th; evens lav. 6 ran. 2, sh ha C Dwyer Tote £4,80, £1 40, £2,80 DF £9,90 CSF, £14 52

(4.40 Doncaster)

2.40 (7) 1, Garmock Valley (G Carler, 7-2). 2, Pageboy (5-1). 3, Statistician (12-1) Scotland Bay 3-1 fav. 10 ran 11, nk. J Bern, Tote, 13-50; £1-50, £2-90 £2-20 DF, £9-40 CSF £20-55. 3.10 (1m 2t) 1, Zidae (A Clark, 8-1), 2 Hawkstall Henry (evens lav); 3, Jubilee Scholar (9-2) 7 ran Nk, 2t P Makin, Tote 5/2-10, 65-80, £1-10 DF 58-00, CSF, £15.72

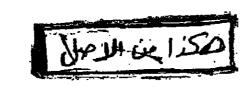
3.40 (1m 4f) 1, Hibernate (D Sweoney, 7-4), 2, Robellia (11-8 lav), 3, Mischiel (4-11 6 ran 4, 6), k Burke Tote £3.20, £1.20, £1.30, DF; £3.30 CSF £4.28, 4.10 (6f) 1. Noble Water (R Brisland, 14-1), 2. Miss Barrands (8-1); 3, Sure To Dream (9-2). Another Nightmere 4-1 tay. 11 ran NR. Scurrious, 34, 134 J Bridger, Tota, £13-90, £2-70, £2-50, £2-70 DF £63.70 CSF; £113.76. Tricast £553.17

4.40 (1m) 1, Baron de Pichon (J Weav-er, 7-2), 2, Lincoln Dean (9-2), 3, Thomas Henry (11-1) Braiby (6th) 94 (av. 6 ran. 2, 4.4 N. Litmoden, Totle, 52,70, 52,10, 53,10 DF, \$12,80 CSF, \$17,06

Piacapot: £140.80. Quadpot: £15.20.

☐ Sedgefield abandoned — frost. ☐ John Bridger, the Liphook trainer, ended a 120-day spell without a winner when Noble Water took the Home Stud 'Fraam' Fillies' Handicap by threequarters of a length at Lingfield Park yesterday.





Rovers forced to dig deep for fresh reserves

By Stephen Wood

IF BLACKBURN Rovers were indeed "running on empty" last weekend, as Brian Kidd. their manager, suggested, there appears to be little hope for them against Newcastle United tonight. The Ewood Park club's resources have been stretched to the limit and the FA Cup fifth-round replay. for the right to meet Everton in the quarter-finals, comes only four days after their worst defeat of the season.

The law of diminishing

returns has gripped Black-burn since Kidd took over as manager. He may have indulged himself in the transfer market, to the tune of £15 million, but his options seem to have been reduced with every match. Jason McAteer and Matt Jansen. automatic selections in the FA Carling Premiership, are ineligible for the Cup, but their absence is the tip of the

iceberg. Chris Sutton and Stephane



tonight, because of injury. Sutton may not need an operation on the foot problem that has troubled him all season, but it is enough to keep him on the sidelines for a further fortnight in what, he accepts, has become his worst season. His enforced inactivity could also affect his chances of earning an England call-up under

Kevin Keegan. Henchoz may need an operation on knee ligaments that he against Sheffield Wednesday last Saturday. Jeff Kenna, the Ireland full back, is doubtful and Flitcroft, McKinlay, Johnson and Gallacher are long-term casualties as the club tries to bounce back from the 4-1 drub-

Ronaldo struggles to regain fitness

nazionale's European Cup quarter-final, first-leg game against Manchester United at Old Trafford next Wednes-day. The Brazil striker has been dogged by a knee injury all season and has played only six full matches for the Uefa Cup holders. He has missed Inter's past seven games and only resumed training on Monday after weeks working out in the gym

and swimming pool.
"He is showing clear signs of improvement, but it won't be easy for the match against Manchester United," Massimo Moratti, president of "He only got back on to a

Inter have adopted a policy of using Ronaldo only in significant matches this season. He played the full 90 minutes in his club's Serie A fixtures against Juventus and Parma, and also in the 3-1 victory over Real Madrid, the European champions, in

November. Some of Ronaldo's Brazilian counterparts at Palmeiras were furning yesterday after Luiz Felipe Scolari, their coach, claimed they were too fat and gave details of their weight to the media to prove it. Scolari was unrepentant and said that he would continue issuing weight buildins

until players trimmed down. There are certain matters which don't need to be made public," Zinho, team captain and a member of Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning team, who was registered as being more than 2lb overweight. said. Paulo Nunes, a striker listed as being more than 6lb too heavy, was also upset.

"This didn't need to happen ... If I go out to a restaurant. everybody is going to start commenting."

about his injury-ravaged squad yesterday. "There's no point in bellyaching about it." he said. "The players have been playing while they've been hurting and that's what it's going to be like until the end of the season."

Newcastle's most significant worry concerned Alan Shearer, who was left behind when the squad travelled yesterday because of flu but who Ruud Gullit, the manager, hopes will be able to join his teammates today.

Darren Peacock, the Blackburn defender who used to be team-mate of Shearer's at Newcastle, expects to be up against the England captain and knows the key to triumph for a reshuffled defence will be keeping him as quiet as in the first match, which ended 0-0. Peacock dismisses suggestions that Shearer has lost any of his threat. "He is still the same player as far as I'm concerned," Peacock said. "He is powerful and strong and, if you give him a chance, he l

Huddersfield Town, of the Nationwide League first division, are hoping that the reunion of Marcus Stewart and Wayne Allison will improve their chances of knocking out Derby County in another fifth-round replay at

Pride Park. The pair have scored 32 goals this season, and one of those was Stewart's equaliser in the 2-2 draw against Derby at the McAlpine Stadium II days ago. Allison was absent from that match because of the death of his father but the player returns tonight.

Derby, who are looking to spend a slice of their transfer budget as soon as possible, welcome back Horacio Carbonari and Francesco Baiano after a rest. Paolo Wanchope. the striker, could be recalled at the expense of Deon Burton, suspended.

A substandard performance saw Derby lose 2-0 at home to Charlton Athletic in the Premiership last weekend and Jim Smith, the manager, said: "We can't afford a repeat of that against Huddersfield."



Choi and Kim pose for photographs at Kimpo airport in Seoul before flying to London to link up with West Ham

West Ham disown Koreans

WEST HAM United yester day insisted that rumours that they were to sign two South Korea internationals in a multimillion-pound deal were

But Peter Storrie, the chief

expenses while they are over The confusion arose after

grossly exaggerated. The FA Carling Premiership club said that they were simply doing them a favour by allowing the two players to train with

West Ham were reported to have paid an Asian record transfer fee of £3 million for Choi Yong-Soo, South Korea's top striker, and a fur-ther El million for Kim Doh-Keun, a midfield player.

executive at Upton Park, said: This is absolute nonsense. Harry Redknapp was approached by the players' representative and asked if he would allow the two players to train with the club while they were on a visit to London. Harry said yes and is simply doing them a favour we have no interest in signing these players whatsoever. The players are paying their own

By Our Sports Staff the World Cup finals in

France last year. He scored seven goals in seven appearances in the Asian qualifying matches for France 98. reports from Southeast Asia claimed that a deal had been completed. A spokesman for Choi's club, LG Cheetahs. Meanwhile, Les Scheinflug, the Australia youth soccer who noted that Perugia, the coach, demanded vesterday Italian club. had paid £2 milthat the England Under-16 lion for Hidetoshi Nakata, of side's 2-1 victory over Cyprus Japan, said: "Choi's transfer in a European championship money is the biggest in hisqualifying match be overtory for an Asian player."
To add weight to the story. turned because they fielded an Australian player. England's second goal on Monday came from Jamie McMas-Choi had reportedly told jour-nalists: "I'm very pleased. This is a dream come true. I

ter, 16. who grew up on the coast north of Sydney. McMaster has been the subject of a tug-of-war between Soccer Australia and Leeds United. McMaster's family emigrated to Australia from Scotland in 1977. He played for Australia in an under-17 international against Japan in Adelaide last year. Scheinflug said: "He has not been cleared by the New South Wales Soccer Federation or by Soccer

Australia. What right have

they to play him?"
Peter Thorne, the general manager of the New South Wales Soccer Federation (NSWSF), said that McMas-ter had been given a provisional clearance by the Football Association through Fifa, the world governing body. However, Thorne stressed that the NSWSF had refused to clear

him to play for England. Thorne wants Fifa to develop a compensation package to protect Australian federations that invest heavily in players, only to see them out

to represent other countries. Some Australian coaches and administrators contend that Leeds United, annoyed at losing Harry Kewell to Australia team duty, have entered an agreement with Westfields High School, where McMaster studied. They claim that under the deal the Sydney school directs to Leeds young players who are able to qualify for England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

FOOTBALL

Full house to cheer Keegan's first game

■ ENGLAND'S first game under Kevin Keegan is a sell-out. Tickets to see the European championship qualifying match against Poland at Wembley on March 27 were snapped up within 36 hours of going on sale. A capacity 75,000 will be packed into the national stadium, although the game was sold out before Keegan's

appointment.
Martin Corrie, a Wembley spokesman, said that the demand for tickets had rivalled that for England's World Cup qualifying match against Italy two years ago but that new high-tech box-office facilities had enabled tickets to be sold more quickly.

■ Gareth Barry, the Aston Villa central defender, will celebrate his 18th birthday today by signing a five-year contract with the club. Barry agreed the deal, which will keep him at Villa Park until the summer of 2004. in December, but will today formally put pen to paper.

Alun Armstrong, the Middlesbrough striker, has had to delay his long-awaited comeback after injuring a hamstring in training. Armstrong has not played since sustaining a pre-season Achilles tendon injury and will now be out of action for another month.

■ Wales are considering an appeal against Uefa's decision not to allow them to switch the European championship qualifying match against Denmark on June 9 from Anfield to Ninian Park.

Colin Addison has been appointed manager of Scarborough, who are bottom of the Nationwide League third division, Addison, 58. has been given a contract until the end of next season.

■ Gabriel Amato, signed by Rangers from Real Mallorca last summer, could be on his way back to Spain. Atlético the injured strikers, Kiko and Fernando Correa, are considering a bid.

Andy Gray, the Nottingham Forest winger. has joined Preston North End on a month's loan, with a view to a permanent move.

SAILING

CRICKET: BOARD KEEPS ITS OPTIONS OPEN BY REINSTATING CAPTAIN FOR TWO MORE TESTS

Cup funds hampering **Britain**

IT IS now beginning to look certain that Great Britain will be represented in the 2000 America's Cup, which begins in Auckland later this year (Edward Gorman writes). However, a continuing shortage of funds in the Spirit of Britain syndicate leaves in question the scale and quality of the challenge.

After a long and difficult search for commercial significant sponsorship backing, Professor Andrew Graves, the chairman of the Spirit of Britain, has decided to go ahead with building one boat while he continues to hunt down the necessary funds to ensure that it is properly campaigned when it reaches Auckland.

It is thought that a group of private backers together with commercial suppliers is enabling one 82ft boat to be built at Portland, Dorset, with a budget of around £1.5 million. Michael Humphreys. a spokesman for the syndicate that is led on the water by Lawrie Smith, said yesterday that Britain will definitely take part. "We have enough money to make a challenge, but we need more to challenge effectively." he said. This will be Britain's first appearance 3 in an America's Cup for 12

Lara gets chance to make amends

IN APPOINTING Brian Lara captain for the first two Tests of West Indies forthcoming series against Australia, the Board is giving him a chance to redeem himself after the shambolic tour of South Africa The decision, reached after a two-day meeting in Antigua, would also have something to do with a lack of suitable alternatives.

It might, too, have been made for reasons of political expediency. The first Test of the four-match series, starting on March 5, is to be played at Port of Spain, Trinidad, Lara's home ground. The insularity that Sir Frank Worrell strove to overcome in the 1960s is apparent once more in the Caribbean: the appointment of a Jamaican or a Bajan may have led to strife on and off the pitch.

A year ago. Lara was leading West Indies to victory over England in his first series as their official captain. Since then, his form has deteriorated, as, indeed, has his reputation as a captain. His tenure in charge of Warwickshire was not a success and there was little evident unity during the tour of South Africa. which West Indies lost 5-0. The players' revolt, which he initiated before it began, did not reflect well on him.

Assuming his eyesight has not deteriorated, as has been suggested, Lara's own form should return. As to his By Ivo Tennant several exceptional players

captaincy, he would be well advised to take more heed of the experience of Clive Lloyd, a marginalised figure as his tour manager in South Africa. He will, no doubt, spend some time on the golf course with the West Indian he respects above all others. Sir Garfield Sobers, who also had to cope with leading a side dependent on his own ability.

had retired or were past their best, he, too, struggled with In England in 1969, when ries against England last year,

Owing to the geography of the West Indies, the captainty has long been a tangled issue. Each island is a separate territory with its own government and culture. When Lara replaced Courtney Walsh, a Jamaican, as captain for the se-

Bulbeck's accuracy is the deciding factor

FROM JOHN STERN IN CHRISTCHURCH

CHRISTCHURCH (England Under-19 won toss): England Under-19 beat Canterbury Emerging Players by 110 runs

runs short of their desired total batting first. England Under-19 completed a comfortable and useful victory over Canterbury Players in their only one-day practice match before the limited overs series against New Zealand Under-19.

DESPITE falling at least 30 Emerging

which begins on Thursday. Michael Gough, the captain, and lan Flanagan, who made 93 for the second time on this tour, put on 158 for the first wicket in 28 overs. a partnership that ought to have been the foundation for

a total in the region of 300. England managed only 260 for six. which, as it turned out. was more than enough. Having started well and progressed to 106 for three in the 23rd over, Canterbury capitulated to 150 all out. Mart Bulbeck, the Somerset left-armer, took the vital wicket, having Marcel McKenzie caught in the deep by Marc Symington

Bulbeck, coming on as second change, took two for nine in an exceptionally accu-

there were lears that demonstrations would take place during the first Test in Kingston. So the West Indies Board. under the presidency of Pat Rousseau, is giving Lara every chance of succeeding before his own kin in Trinidad. Fail there and in the cockrit of Sabina Park, the venue for the second Test, and there will be no shortage of vociferous cricket followers ready to tell him that Walsh or Jimmy Adams, another Jamaican, should have had the job instead.

always wanted to play in

Europe. I'm all the more

pleased because I am going to

Great Britain, homeland of

football. I'll do my best, keep-

ing in mind that South Korea

is going to co-host the 2002 World Cup." Choi, 6ft tall and nick-

named The Eagle because of

his speed and ability to read

the game, was a key member

of the South Korea squad at

As for inter-island rivalry, which is afflicting West Indies' unity once more, Lara will doubtless be reminded by Sobers of Worrell's attempts in his day to create "a comity of nations". West Indies' great-est captain wrote in 1966 that "the team has proved it is a working federal unit and the chambers of commerce, politicians and, indeed, all thinking West Indians see the necessity for regional co-operation."

West Indies were given a reminder of the tasks that lav ahead of them on the field in the weeks ahead yesterday when Australia bowled out the West Indies Board XI for 55 in Antigua. Adam Dale, the seam bowler, took seven for 24 as Australia established a first-innings lead of 10).

LINKS

www.uk.onderlorg

England A ready for hard finale

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN JOHANNESBURG

THE ENGLAND A team have arrived in South Africa for the final leg of their winter tour. After the success of Zimbabwe, where both the international and limited-overs series were won convincingly, they are certain to come up against a higher standard of opposition. They will play two matches, the first against a province, Gauteng, at the Wanderers, beginning tomorrow, and then a five-day match against the President's XI.

When this A tour was originally conceived the intention had been to stage a fuller itinerary in South Africa with an additional, shorter visit to Zimbabwe. With West Indies involved in a five-Test series against South Africa, the United Cricket Board (UCB) were, however, unable to host a full A tour. Consequently, this visit is being funded completely by the England and Waks Cricket Board.

Finances apart, the logistic difficulties the UCB encountered became apparent vesterday when confusion emerged over the venue for the match against the President's XI. Originally scheduled to be played in Cape Town, the recent success of Western Province has seen them reach second place in the domestic first-class league here and, depending on the outcome of their next match, they may claim home advantage in the final. In that instance, a new venue for the game - most likely Port Elizabeth — will have to be found.

Of more immediate concern will be the four-day encounter against Gauteng, who have rested Ken Rutherford, their captain, and former New Zealand skipper, and are likely to give opportunities to several coloured players in line with the UCB's initiative to increase the racial mix of

FOR THE RECORD BASKETBALL

RNTEHRATIONAL MAILERS SYMBOLISM
SE England 82 (in Nyori) M (REAL): AlianNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (REAL): Aliante 88 Chicago 77: Clavelano 97 Philadelpha 108. Oxfando 107 Sacramento 98, Denver 117 Los Angeles Lakers 113 (OT): Mirnesota 95 San Antono 89. Philane 107 Dallas 83. Utah 104 Los Angeles Cappers 89

CAMBRIDGE LENT RACES

MENt Second division: Peterhouse bpd Sidney Sussec, St Cathanne's bpd 1st and and Timity II. Caus II bpd Downing II. Christ's II bpd Corpus Christ LMBC III bpd Queen's III. Christ's II bpd Corpus Christ LMBC III bpd Queen's III. Jesus III bpd Paterhouse II. Wolfson bpd Magdalame II: Robrison III bpd Powning III: Gerion II bpd Higher Half. Jesus III bpd Corpus Christi II: Foorth division: Schrey Susse III bpd Care Half. LMBC IV bpd Care III. Caus III bpd Timity Half III: 1st and 3rd Timity IV bpd Churchil III. St Cathanne's III bpd Schrift Schrey Sussex bpd LMBC 2: King's bpd Emmaruel II. Robrison bpd Homerton: Wolfson bpd St Cathanne's III. Carend Bpd Care Half. Traind division: Queen's II bpd Timity Half II; Homerton II bpd Lucy Carendah. Churchil II bpd Selwyn II. Pembroke II bpd Caus R: LMBC III bpd Darwin R.

CANOEING

NEW ZEALAND: World Wild Water Cup: Mem: K1 class: 1, F Worlers (Ger) 395pts; 2, R Porcarolo (f) 381, 3, C Mercan (f) 388. Bridsh placings: 16. I Toroid (Tossier) 293; 22, P Kemon (Lancaster) 268 C1 class: 1, V Pannalo (f) 395, 2, M Soeli (f) 399, 3, B Honrel (Slovene) 363, Bridsh placing: 9 R Pumptrey (Shadwell) 288, Womert: K1 class: 1, S Exhenberger (Swiz) 396, 2, C Brohof (Ger) 381, 3, P Schiller (August) 363 4, M Formusek (K2) 352 (Bridsh placing: 11, C Berry (Forth/Edmburgh) 318

CRICKET

Tour match

Canterbury Emerging Players v England Under-19 CHRISTCHURCH (England Under-19 won foct). England Under-19 beat Canterbury Emerging Players by 110 runs ENGLAND UNDER-19

ENGLAND UNDER-19
M A Gough b Hams.
IN Flanagon c Banett b Walker
R J Logon b Hams
M A Carbeny rod out
J K Maunders bur b Walker
M F Busseck rum out
G R Haywood c Walker b C Comelius
J R J Feanch rod out
Excras fib 4, w 10] Total (8 witts, 50 overs). R K J Dawson, M J Symington and M J A Whithy did not bat FALL OF WICKETS: 1-156, 2-166, 3-188, 4-213, 5-218, 6-255 BOWING Wester 10-1-50-2: W Cornelius 13-0-49-0: Harris 10-0-48-2: C Cornelius 10-0-56-1: Barrist 10-0-53-0. CANTERBURY EMERGING PLAYERS CANTERBURY EMERCANG PLAYER
S Glason c Symmyton b Lugan
R Pressor b Lugan
M McGerzec C Symmyton b Bulback
H James b Haywood
J Barret nan ou
L strict b Busback
G Bronney the b Symington
C Complais b Fearch
R Bronney the b Symington

Rugg c Maunders b Fearick T Harrs not out. W Corneus o Flanagen b Symington Extraos (20 1.3, w 9) Total (39.5 overs)_ FALL OF WICKETS. 1-5, 2-56, 3-92, 4-106 5-108, 6-110 7-115 8-125, 9-132. BOWLING Logan 7-0-37-2, Whiley 3-0-27-0, Haywood 10-1-29-1; Bulacek 7-3-9-2, Sym-rigion 8-5-1-15-2, Feanch 6-0-20-2

Umpres: J Busby and G Baster,

FOOTBALL SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Postporadt Rose County v Brachin FA CARL SEPING VASE: Serol-fload draw: Isunton Town, Bedington Temers v Thame United.

J Rist legs to be played March 13, second legs March 20

Monday's late results POOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLI-ANCE: Midland Conference: Lincoln City ANCE: Industry Conservation. Lincol Cy.
1 Port Vale: AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:
First division: Lution 1 Barnet 1, Oxford 0
Bournemouth 1, Reading 0 Totterham 0.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division:
Sunderland 1 Leoseter 1 Second division: Wredern 3 Newcastle 3.

HOCKEY REPRESENTATIVE MATCH (at Oxford): Oxford University () Army ()

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NETL); Tampa Bay 2 New Jersey 3: Washington 4 Toronto 3, Pris-burgh 4 Phoenix 1, Si Louis 5 Los Angeles 1, Calgary 6 New York Rangers 2. NORDIC SKIING

BISCHOPSHOFEH, Austrie: World classiplesships: K120 facm | fumping avent: 1, Germany 998 9ts. 2, Japan 987; 3, Austra 955 5, 4, Friand 855 7; 5, Slovene 782.3; 6, Norway 707 1

SAILING CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE-Ling 3s (Hawai to Yokohems): 1, Anel (A Thorreon) Sinshed at 201pm GMT 212-2, Chrysolie (T Hedges) Invisited at 15-8, GMT 227-3, Sence (R Deen) awaking finishing times 4, Antilope (K Hams) awaking finishing time 5, Thermopylas (M Tod) awaking Brisshing time 6, Memmos (R Scrieber 330

SKIING

shing time: 6. Mermerus (B Sollars) 333 es to brish: 7. Taeping (N Fleming) 870

ARE, Swedert Womer: World Cap: Glant statom: 1, A Messruter (Austria) 2mn 12.97sc. 2. A Wecter (Austria) 2.13.82.3, A Flemmen (Not) 2.14.60.4, 8 Net (Switz) 2.14.88, 5, A Ottosson (Swe) 2.15.10, 6, D Compagners (B) 2.15.16.

BATTERSEA PARK: Guardian Ofrect Cust: Singles: First round: G Nanisavic (Cro) bi J Semenink (Hol) 6-3, 0-6, 7-8; R Krajock (Hol) bi J Tarango (US) 6-4, 6-2 T Johansson (Sare) bi P Luca (Cr) 8-2, 6-4; P Kords (Cd) bi W Femera (SA) 6-3, 8-4; B Black (Zm) bi K Alam (Mor) 6-1, 1-6, 7-6; G Rocus (Fr) bi D Vacek (Cr) 6-4, 6-3, N Kinter (Ger) bi C Pohne (Fr) 5-7, 6-2, 7-6. D Hitchly (Stockin) bi S Pescocolido (II) 6-3, 6-7, 6-2 Ocushes: First round: I Henrican (GS) and G Rusectol (GS) bi P Noncal (SA) and K Ubyer (Cr) 7-6, 6-2, 7-6, 2 T Carboneti (So) and C Hargaro (SA) bi P Nyborg (Sale) and P Vizzer (Cr) 6-4, 6-3, J Eogle (Aus) and A Florent (Aus) bit W Black (Zm) and S Stole (Aus) PARIS INDOOR ODER (Ed.)

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SIMON BARNES

Midweek View

because we generally have

23 pints each afterwards and

that's the great brotherhood

of rugby union, right boys?

Rugby union is in love with what is hidden, secret,

set apart. Rugby union nev-

er closes ranks, because its

ranks have never for a sec-

ond opened. It is the very na-

ture of the sport the for-

wards line up as one man and blows and biffs are giv-

en and returned in the

many-legged heart of things.

And ear-biting and stamp-

ing and punching and goug-

ing go on because the struc-

ture of the game makes such

things inevitable. Very large

strong men are rolling over

and over on the floor for the

possession of one small

thing and nobody can see

Ruck laws change and

change again but the nature

of a ruck makes laws almost

impossible to write, and,

even if perfectly written, im-

possible to impose with

even-handed-

ness, still less ac-

curacy. Profes-

not created this

climate of secret

violence: it has

merely added one more pint of

bat's blood to the

In football you

sionalism

cauldron.

get a yellow card for looking

cross and you get sent off for

sneezing. The game has

swung the other way. Per-

haps all games performed in

public in front of paying

But rugby remains in thrall to the notion of

secrecy and the ruck is at the

heart of it all, for that matter

at the very heart of rugby

And, even if the will to police

the ruck exists. I doubt very

much if policing it is a

practical prospect. Rugby

can't live with the ruck, can't

live without it. There will be

many more of these cases of

It is simply a very violent

stud-raking,

stamping, stud-rakin punching and ear-biting.

spectators must do so.

what's going on.

6 It's just

a very

violent

game?



Mr. feet 1. . .

J. 1.

100

ATHLETICS

Ladejo set to take the money and run

By DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be some prizemoney, though not much, at stake today when Du'aine Ladejo runs his first 400 metres for Great Britain since the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. How Ladejo, the European indoor and outdoor champion who gave up both titles for life as a decathlete, wishes it was more.

Five years ago, Ladejo denied Roger Black a third successive European outdoor gold medal and, 18 months later, won a second successive continental indoor title. No longer, though, does he enjoy the annual £100,000-plus a year in endorsements, or the

five-figure appearance fees. Still striving for his break-through as a decathlete, Ladejo has no sponsor and draws nothing from lottery funding. He has debts but he is happy. 'I am not claiming poverty,' Ladejo said yesterday. This is my choice and I love it. The decathlon has revived me."

In two years as a decathlete, Ladejo has made sound if unspectacular progress. He finished as the top Briton at the Commonwealth Games, in seventh, but is still more than 300 points short of 8,000,

the benchmark of world class.

"Hopefully this year I will be able to put out some worldclass performances in the decathlon," Ladejo said. So determined is he that, when he travels to Maebashi, Japan, for the 400 metres at the world indoor championships next week, he will maintain his training in other events.

Why, then, is Ladejo back running 400s, albeit temporarily? "I need the money," he said. "I would not be going to the world championships if there was no prize-money and no way would I be doing 400s. My focus is not so much on winning as on the \$50,000."

Victory in the six-nations international in Genoa today would earn Ladejo just \$1,000 but it all helps and he needs the race to sharpen for Maebashi. Even if he fails to finish in the prize-money in the individual race in Japan, the strength of the Britain relay team almost guarantees a

Drug issue

continues to hound Korda

By Julian Muscat, tennis correspondent

A DIFFERENT SORE OF WEIcome awaited Petr Korda when he played at the Guardian Direct Cup 12 months ago. The Czech player arrived in London fresh from winning the Australian Open, his first grand-slam title, and hot on the trail of Pete Sampras's

place at the top of the game. Now Korda languishes at No 75 in the world rankings. The positive drugs test he submitted at Wimbledon seven months ago has besmirched his reputation. He is deep into the twilight of his career and his game is in tatters.

After escaping a ban when traces of nandrolone, an anabolic steroid, was found in his urine, Korda, 31, spoke of postponing his retirement to clear his name and finish with a flourish. There is no hint, no suggestion at all that he might recapture his former glories. He remains a slightly isolated figure, his furrowed features telling of a man on whose shoulders the doping problem has rested heavily. It has certainly hijacked his form post-Wimbledon — as evidenced by

a string of first-round losses." Given the cloud surrounding his participation, it is probably as well that he never did overhaul Sampras, a leader by example, both on and off the court. His silence on the issue would have been that much harder to bear.

As it is, the tennis community waits while the legal process runs its course. Perhaps Korda will then furnish the doubters with his account of how he came to test positive after his quarter-final defeat by Tim Henman.

However, it emerged yesterday that they may have to wait a little longer. Korda intimated that he might not be willing to speak at all. He escaped a mandatory one-year ban when, under the terms of the deposit into his bank account. | anti-doping programme, he

stated that he did not knowingly take the offending steroid. He has since rebuffed all efforts to illicit a satisfactory explanation on the legal pretext that the International Tennis Federation continues to appeal against the ruling.

A final verdict on the appeal process is expected by the end of next month. But yesterday, after beating Wayne Ferreira. 6-3, 6-4 at Battersea, Korda said: "I don't know if I will ever talk about it. It is not in my hands. I know what happened and it is not an easy situation. Once I quit, maybe a few months after that, I could make some comments "

He also denounced players. including Greg Rusedski, who used the media to express their views on his predicament. 'Any player can challenge me face to face instead of laughing behind me," he said. "I am following the rules and no one has the right to clean my house out. Greg doesn't know the rules or about my case," he continued, "but I am not going to be offensive to anyone. Korda's words added spice

to his possible second-round encounter with Rusedski, who opened his campaign last night against Gianluca Pozzi, of Italy. More relaxed in his mind was Thomas Johansson. who registered a victory over Petr Luxa, a qualifier from the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-4.

Johansson, seeded No 8, will remember his win over an opponent ranked No 212 for one reason. It was the Swede's first of the year after first-round exits in Doha, Sydney and Melbourne. Still, it is not a bad life: Johansson earned \$21,000 (around £13,000) for losing those matches.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, for one, will have welcomed Johansson's reviving fortunes. He must beat the Swede in their projected quarter-final on Friday, thereby earning

By RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

After two rounds of the elite

tournament in Linares, Spain,

two players share the lead:

Garry Kasparov, the world

champion, who scored a rare win as Black against Ivan-

chuk, and Michael Adams, of

Sicilian Defence

Rb8

Quits 0-0 Rd8 8b7 buc3 Qe6 Bd5 Rbc8 Rxc3 Ng4 Ne3+ Rc8 Nuc1 Bue6 Rc1

White: Vassily Ivanchuk

Black: Garry Kasparov

Joint lead

Great Britain.

Linares 1999

Nf3

Bg3 Qd2

25 Rd1 26 Qxc3 27 Qa5 28 Kg1 29 Qxa6 30 Qxe6 31 Bxd1

White resigns

White: Veselin Topalov Black: Michael Adams



Korda serves during his win over Wayne Ferreira in Battersea Park, London, yesterday

valuable bonus ranking points, to wrest the No I spot from Sampras. Anything less and the Russian will be obliged to progress to the final. Cedric Pioline, the beaten

TENNIS: CZECH DENOUNCES RUSEDSKI FOR COMMENTS ON HIS POSITIVE STEROID TEST

finalist last year, collapsed at the first hurdle this time against the enigmatic Nicolas Kiefer, of Germany. In succumbing over three sets in the quarter-finals in Rotterdam last week. Pioline lost both the tie-breaks he played against Rusedski. A similar fate befell him here as Kiefer rallied to

0-0

Nb8

exid4 Nove4 Rove4 che4 Bb7 Rox8 Bc8 f6 h5

Diagram of final position

of the Kasparov victory

☐ Raymond Keene writes on

chess Monday to Friday in

Sport and in the Weekend

section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

B₀3

Nb3

19 Be3 20 Nc5

22 Ng3 23 bxc5 24 d4

26 cxd4 27 Nxe4 28 Rxe4 29 Qxe4 30 Re1

32 Qc3 33 Re3

34 Bb1 35 h4 36 Be4

38 8/3 39 Rxe8

37

oust the Frenchman 5-7, 6-2. 7-5 after just over 21: hours. Henman, who opens tomor-

row against one Slovakian in Jan Kroslak, learnt yesterday that victory would pitch him against another in Dominik Hrbaty, who bettered Stefano Pescosolido. Hrbaty prevailed 6-3, 6-7. 6-2 in another lengthy

A sombre mood governed events yesterday after the death of Menno Oosting, of Holland. The player was killed in a car crash when

returning home from a challenger event in France on Monday night. Several players observed a minute's silence on the court. Among them were two of his compatriots: Paul Haarhuis, who spoke eloquently of Oosting, and Rickard Krajicek, who was moved to tears.

LINKS www.atotour.com TELEVISION: BBC2, 2.10 (highlights)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Video referee's debut delayed

By Christopher Irvine

A VIDEO referee will make a first appearance at Wembley for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final on May I. Rulings on close try-scoring decisions referred by the referee will be made from television pictures and relayed by red and green lights visible to the crowd, as in cricket.

The system was to have been used in the televised fifthround matches between Leeds Rhinos and St Helens last Saturday and Warrington Wolves and Halifax Blue Sox last Sunday. However, because of technical problems, its debut has been delayed until the quarterfinals next month.

The light-board has been a feature of the Australian game for a couple of seasons, while the video screen, as pioneered in coverage of live Super League matches on BSky B in 1996, has become an accepted, if expensive, means of judging contentious scoring decisions. The Rugby Football League (RFL) is anxious to learn more about reports from Australia that have cast doubt on the trinations series between Great Britain, Australia and New

November. Problems with forward planning and the shelving of a

Zealand in October and

World Cup in Australia last year looked to have been resolved with a series of international initiatives put in place, including the reschedul-ing of the World Cup for 2000 in Britain, by the new Rugby League International Federation (RLIF).

However, Gerald Ryan, the New Zealand Rugby League chairman, has reportedly threatened to withdraw New Zealand unless Australia table a business plan for the trinations, while David Barnhill. the Australian Rugby League general manager, has been quoted as saying that a decision whether to proceed with the annual series against the Kiwis or admit Britain had not

yet been made. The RFL is seeking assurances before the RLIF meeting in Sydney next month, otherwise the game's international reputation will be dealt another damaging blow. The World Nines, due to have been held in Johannesburg last month, were cancelled by the South African Rugby League because of a lack of television gurantees, which has put a question mark against a proposed game there between Britain and New Zealand in

November.

Brotherhood of beauty and the beast

get sent off in a rugby union match? We debated this question after the England v Scotland match with precisely that degree of seriousness that we feel is expected of sportswriters of our calibre. How about if you mowed down the entire opposition pack with an Uzi?

Nah. You'd get a pretty serious talking-to, mind you. A real finger-wagging. You! No 4, white! You know perfectly well you're not supposed to use that gun on full automatic. Next time, keep i to single shots, all right? Or I might have to give you a yellow card.

Actually, I have changed my mind about Martin Johnson. I said on Monday that he was a Cro-Magnon: further research makes it clear he is a dead ringer for the Homo erectus skull found east of Lake Turkana in 1975. The extraordinary development of the brow-ridge makes diagnosis certain.

Johnson is, I read, a big man in many ways. Mainly. it must be said, in terms of size. In demeanour he reminds me of Spiny Norman. the giant hedgehog in Mon-ty Python who stalked the streets of London as the nemesis of Dinsdale Piranha. You can just see Johnson walking heavy-footed across the Twickenham turf, bassing out the terrible words: "Dins-dale! Dins-dale!"

Dinsdale Piranha's main form of retribution was nailing people's heads to the floor. "I wanted him to do it, like, because I'd

transgressed the unwritten law." The Times on Monday had a nice picture of Johnson nailing Leslie's John head to the floor. He used his left boot to do so - 1

do love a forward who is genuinely two-footed. don't you? All his weight was in the air: and down he came. Look out. larynx.

Now stamping on a chap's laryax can be as lethal as snapping off half a magazine from an Uzi. And the referee was so shocked and appalled that he felt that a mere talking-to was not enough. And so he took extreme measures: a yellow

And this means that Johnson can't actually be punished further. This seems illogical, considering that a yellow card is not so much a nunishment as a warning. but there you go. A yellow card closes the matter.

Just as Johnson stalks the field in the guise of Homo erectus, so beings of the more recent past stalk through every corner of rugby union. The ruling spirit is, as ever. what's-it-got-dowith-you? Boys will be boys, let's all kick the crap out of each other and it's all right

game. That is its beauty, and ts curse. Even if a genuine will to control the illegal part of that violence existed — and it does not — then rug-by's officials would be forever running up the down escalator ... with Spiny Norman rushing down to meet them. teeth bared. Dins-dale!

SPORT IN BRIEF

E CRICKET: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) emphasised yesterday its intention that the World Cup in England this summer should be a carnival, family affair with no bans on fancy dress or musical instruments inside grounds...It hopes to attract more women to the competition. The ECB announced that Outspan, the citrus fruit company, will be an official supplier to the World Cup and that it will undertake research on women's views about cricket. A free, magazine called Bodyline will help them

understand the finer points.

ATHLETICS: Richard Nerurkar has been forced to withdraw from the 1999 Flora London Marathon on

medical advice. Neturkar, of Britain, fifth in the 1997 event, said: "I've struggled to find my best form in training and competition and, following a series of medical tests I've had over the past three weeks, I have been advised to take an extended period of quiet training."

HOCKEY: Mike Corby, who has made 59 appearances for England and 33 for Great Britain, has been nominated by the Middlesex County Hockey Association to stand for the position of vice-president of the English Hockey Association at the forthcoming annual general meeting. He is at present vice-president of the English Squash Rackets Association

SPORTS POLITICS: GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCE NEW NETWORK FOR TRAINING

Regional centres to groom our talent JOHN MAJOR'S vision of

Britain having a £160 million Academy of Sport to groom stars is finally over. The Government will announce on Monday that there will be a network of ten regional centres in England, with Sheffield, once picked as its hub. now downgraded to becom-

for training.

Instead of being the glittering centrepiece for reviving Britain's sporting prestige, only a handful of sports will be using the proposed site in

By John Goodbody opposed Major's plans for a

the Lower Don Valley. However, Sheffield will still house the centre for sports science, medicine and research. The original plan, announced four years ago by the former Prime Minister. included an academy offering residential places for 500 young people, ing just one of these facilities who would improve their sporting ability while pursu-

ing academic subjects. The scheme will please most national governing bodies. which originally

UK Sports Institute (UKSI) but had to wait until after the change of government in 1997 to be heard. David Sparkes. the chief executive of the Amateur Swimming Association, said yesterday: "We have got what sport wanted — a series of network regional sites. But we have wasted at least two

Some sports, such as football and cricket, want their own specialist national

years in getting there."

be part of an all-embracing central academy. The network of ten regional facilities, including Bath and

centres, and did not want to

and the world federation.

Loughborough, will accommodate many outstanding competitors closer to their homes. The £160 million of National Lottery money, originally earmarked for the UKSI, will still be used for the capital projects, but only £40 million will be given to Sheffield, split between its regional facilities and the sports med-



Luckily, as in golf, there are no pictures on the score-card at bridge. My antics on this hand from the 1998 Gold Cup final went unnoticed by the rest of the team when we only lost I

N-S game Dealer East **▲ KQ103** 4 K65 ♣ A985 ▲ J72 ♥ KJ5 01097642 O KQ5 S ♣ 9732 **6** 64 ♥ Q10642 O A J + A 10 8 4

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ten of diamonds.

After East passed I opened One Heart, and my partner Howard Cohen put me into Four Hearts. After the diamond lead my chances were poor, though as it happens, I have no club loser if I guess that suit correctly. Also the spade situation is exceptionally favourable. If I lead twice towards the king-queen. West gives me three tricks in the suit if he rises with the ace, and if he ducks twice my spade loser

IMP on the board.

disappears. To cater for this spade holding I won East's queen of diamonds and played a spade. West (Terry Goldsmith) went in with the ace straight away. Had he continued diamonds there would have been no story, but he switched to the queen of clubs.

I won in hand, cashed the ace of hearts and took two spade tricks, discarding my diamond loser. When East (Gerald Soper) followed with the jack of spades on the

third round it seemed safe enough to play a fourth spade. I presumed he would ruff from either king-jack or

jack alone, so effectively it was like playing a trump. However, Soper discarded. Now I placed West with both outstanding trumps. and so ruffed dummy's remaining diamond and exited with a heart from hand. I hoped West would have to win and play a club

away from his jack.
Unfortunately it was East
who had the two trump
tricks, and after he had cashed them and correctly played a club, there was a nervous moment when I put in the eight. But the jack appeared, and when we scored up I was able to reply casually "one away" when my team-mates announced minus 650".

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend

section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HEDERIGERENT a. A female regent b. Cantankerous c. Wearing ivy

JALAP a. A Japanese/Laplander b. A thick enamel c. A purgative

HYGROMA a. A tumour b. A sea monster c. A seaweed

HARMATTAN a. A wind b. A New York district c. A Muslim feast

How did Black make the most of his powerful pair of bishops?

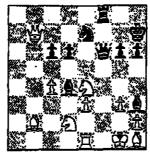
Solution on page 46

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is

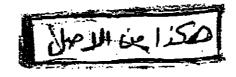
from the game Mayer - Naka-

mura, Washington 1998.





WINNING MOVE



Matchplay tournament promises to be thrilling spectacle



Westwood, seeded No 5 for the matchplay championship, chips from the bunker at the 17th during his practice round at La Costa golf club yesterday

THE excitement of recent Ryder Cups has emphasised golf's need for a true match-play event in which the best players in the world are pitted against one another in a fullfield tournament. At last, the sport has one. Sixty-four of the leading 65 professionals will compete in the Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship, which starts here, this morning, at the La Costa resort, a few miles inland from the Pacific Ocean.

The first four rounds will take place over 18 holes, with the final being over 36. Some of the matches are breathtaking in prospect. Tiger Woods, who won the Buick Invitational tournament ten days ago. just when it seemed David Duval was going to take his position as the world No I, will face Nick Faldo, who only got into the event because Jumbo Ozaki, of Japan, declined to play. "On paper Tiger ought to dust me off," Faldo said on Monday night. "He is the world No I and winning tournaments all over the place. I am at the opposite end. But he is the guy under pressure and anything can happen at match-

Colin Montgomerie, who arguably, could be described as the world matchplay champion having won a smaller version of this event in Arizona last year, plays Craig Stadler. A relatively unknown player to watch out for over the next few days is Shigeki Maruyama, of Japan.

The 29-year-old competed for the International team in

Faldo hoping to cut down Woods

the Presidents Cup last November and won all five of his matches against a United States team boasting several big-name players.

Lee Westwood faces Eduardo Romero. Form suggests that as Westwood is seeded fifth and Romero sixtieth, Westwood is favoured to reach the second round, though he knows as well as anyone the vagaries of matchplay.

"I have not looked past Romero," Westwood said yesterday. "Every match is difficult. You cannot get away snr said. "He will lose to

FROM JOHN HOPKINS **GOLF CORRESPONDENT** IN CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA

hope you do not get a player who is having a hot day unless you are having one as well." Westwood knows about hot days. In one of the matches he and John, his father, had at Worksop, Westwood Jr. then playing off plus 4, found himself nine down after ten

"Lee does not like losing to me at anything," Westwood

WORLD MATCH PLAY FIRST-ROUND DRAW

Solheim Cup will take place at

Loch Lornand Golf Club in the

Solheim, president of the Ping

Corporation, sponsor of the biennial match between the

WORD-WATCHING

(c) Bearing or wearing ivy.

The Latin hedera means ivy,

(c) A purgative drug obtained

from the tuberous roots of Ex-

ogonium (Ipomoea) Purga

and some other convolvula-

(a) A tumour containing se-rum or other morbid fluid.

(a) A dry parching land-wind.

which blows during Decem-

ber. January and February.

on the coast of Upper Guinea

SOLUTION TO

WINNING MOVE

1 ... Bxe3+1: 2 Rxe3 Qf1+1: 3

Nxfi Rxfi checkmate.

but not pus. A serous cyst.

Answers from page 45

HEDERIGERENT

and gerens carrying.

JALAP

ceous plants.

HYGROMA

HARMATTAN

millennium year." Howland and

something to do with me never letting him win as a child." This is the first of three events that make up the World Golf Championship (WGC). The other two events are strokeplay contests, held at Akron, Ohio, in August, and Valderrama, Spain. in November. Prize-money at all of them is enormous - a total of \$5 million (around £3 million) being distributed, with the overall winner collecting \$1 million.

Here, even first-round losers will be rewarded with \$25,000. As this money counts with level par every day. You anyone else, but not to me. It is towards Ryder Cup selection,

> unfold. The Americans, who are much more familiar with strokeplay, are particularly inquisitive. By Sunday, however, they should be much the wiser. This is potentially a terrific tournament and every follower of the sport must hope it lives up to its advance

it means that those players who are eligible to compete in WGCevents have an enor-

mous advantage in the race to

represent their continent than those who do not Ken Schofield, executive director of

the European Tour, is satisfied with this. but Severiano

Ballesteros, at present not even in the top 200 in the

La Costa is one of these

spectacularly comfortable and

expensive resorts that are

commonplace in the United

States. The rooms start at \$350

lieves the course leaves some-

fairways are quite the thing."

Westwood, an accurate driver,

said. "Every hole looks like a

driving range. It does not test

On the eve of this tourna-

ment there was genuine excitement at what was about to

"I don't think that 40-yard

thing to be desired.

every aspect of your

world. is furious.

LINKS

Sky Sports 3, 7pm (Irve

Cup carried off by Scotland

JULY 10TH - 18TH 1999

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For pologi brochare information pack call 24-hour HOTLINE 0990 778014 or write to: Kenya Bike Bide, 80-82 The Broadway, Stammere, HAT 4HB







THERE was a surprising BY PATRICIA DAVIES disclosure in Birmingham yes professionals terday when it was revealed women

that the Solheim Cup next Europe and the United States. year is to be held at Loch Loemphasised that Sunningdale mond and not, as previously had been 'very understandannounced, at Sunningdale. ing". Chris Needham, the club captain, said: "We're very, Tim Howland, the recently appointed chief executive of very sorry to lose the Solheim European Ladies Cup, but it goes to Loch Professional Golf Association Lomond with our blessing." Sunningdale, which cele-brates its centenary in 2000 (ELPGA), cited "commercial realities" for the move. "I can't go into detail on the commerand successfully staged the Wectabix Women's British Open in 1997, charges a facilcial side," he said, "but after a great deal of deliberation and consultation, with the support of the Solheim family, the ELPGA has decided that the

ity fee, which the ELPGA, a pretty impoverished body at the moment, can ill afford. The move to Scotland is also supported by Dunbartonshire Enterorise, which is hoping for a boost for tourism in the area and the local economy. it seems to be a European trend to take the Ryder Cup

tional courses, but Loch Lomond is building a fair reputation for itself and there is no doubt that the course, designed by Torn Weiskopf and venue for the Standard Life event the week before the Open Championship, is in a magnificent setting. It has already been extravagantly praised and Nick Faldo once called it the best inland course in Europe. It also has the advantage of

and the Solheim Cup away from the old-fashioned, tradi-

being a lot farther north than Sunningdale and, because the match is being played from October 6 to 8, the extra hours of daylight will be vital. The only other time the match was held in Scotland, at Dalmahoy in 1992. Europe won - their sole victory in five attempts so

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL Nok-of 7.00 criess stated

FA Cup Fifth-round regists Blackburn v Newcastle († 45) Derby v Huddardfeld († 45) Totlenham v Leeds († 45)

OR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern divisions Si Leonards - Francisco mech. Mid-land division: Sci no. Berough - Vierlen-super-Marc I7 45 Unitional Leadure Uniffice that division Cop. Third round: http://www.four.ing.com/ four.ing.com/ four.ing.com/ four.ing.com/ four.ing.com/ THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth-

POOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALL-ANCE Michard Conference: Noncarp-tor v Sure of Dr. Vascal v Bromgram 11.15. North West Confirment: Stockpot v Burk (2.5) Pressor v Bigs (1). Y BUT 12 5 PROTECT OF THE AVOID DESURANCE COMBINATIONS
FIRST CHISCOST STATE OF THE Plest division: Program - Charmon From Controller - The State From Shington or Named and Front Shington of Programma - American From Programma - American Shington - Shington - American -

COMPLETE MUSIC MELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: 1-divisor i visconecci nonti lesci vi Admosti visconecci nonti lesci vi Admosti visconecci nonti lesci premier MOTTA LEAGUE: Presi divisiore Bilanguari - Econggori lesci Morpeto, Gusborouch Durston Foderado, Jaros Rodrig vi Versi Adulandi. SCREWPIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier divisiore Laurent vi Versi Adulandi. delation Tauron o ViceDury (7 45).

MINERIVA SPANTAN SOUTH MID-LANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Teo-dington i Namender (7 49).

BANKES BIREWIFFLY LEAGUE: Premier chylsion: Lee Tourn y Wolvertampton Tigten Town v Karden Town JEWSON LEAGUE CUP; Semi-Book Fo.s.

RUGBY LEAGUE

OTHER SPORT

JEWSON LEAGUE CUP: Semi-mate Pol-Strain Port and Town of Histon 17-45. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First divi-alors: Domino v Course Sports 17-15. Eastech v Thanchart Town UNLEY SUBSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: Fleet divident: Salary v Wick NORTH WIESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE CUP: Third-cound replay: General v St Helers Town Humslef v Gateshead (6.3)......

BASKETBALL: European champiocaling qualitying exists. England v Beland vid Crysta Parace NSC. 7-301 act HOCEN: Battond Superinagae; Av Scottist Eagles v Manchester Storm (7 00: Statistic Superinagae; Av Scottist Eagles v Manchester Storm (7 00: Statistic Superinagae; v Carbit Devis (7 30; Paulistic Statistic V Carbit Devis (7 30; Paulistic Statistic Superinagae), v Carbit Devis (7 30; Paulistic Statistic Superinagae), v Carbit Devis (7 30; Paulistic Statistic Statistic Statistic Superinagae), v Carbit Statistic 6 15) TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cupital Sallersea Park).

TELEVISION CHOICE

A swashbuckler's return

Hornblower: The Duchess and the Devil ITV, Spm

Ioan Gruffudd returns as Horatio Hornblower in Ican Gruffudd returns as Horatio Hornblower in this third of a series of handsome adaptations from the novels of naval derring-do in the Napoleonic Wars. Being the thoroughly decent egg that he is, Hornblower not only masterminds the capture of a French sloop attempting to break the British Fleet's blockade of Cadiz, but also pluckily leads his men through the ordeal of capture and of imprisonment by the Spanish, rescues the crew of a ship wrecked near the prison and surrenders himself again to the Spanish because he has given his word not to escape, it would all be insufferably noble if not for the over-the-top behaviour of all around him: tothe over-the-top behaviour of all around him: to-night, they include Cherie Langhi having fun as a dodgy Duchess and Ronald Pickup as the hairiest, scruffiest prison governor this side of Prisoner: Cell Block H.

Jasper Carrott — Back to the Front BBC1, 9.30pm (not Scotland)

I don't know what proportion of his material Carrott writes (half a dozen writers are also credit-ed), but he certainly understands the dynamics of stand-up comedy, as demonstrated in this first of what is described as his "first all stand-up series what is described as his "first all stand-up series for television" (I could have sworn he's done it before, more than once). Marking his 30th anniversary in showbiz, it inevitably reflects his advancing years. The series is a distillation of material prepared for a long tour, which sometimes shows in the way he delivers a line or a story althost regardless of the live audience reaction; but he is assured and absorbing, sympathetic and sardonic.

Trouble at the Top

BBC2, 9.50pm The first of a new series looks at a Northampton company, a family business of shoe manufacturers facing a tough future after more than 100 years of existence. The fourth-generation boss. Steve Paternan, decides on a drastic gamble; be will enter the fetish market and produce a range of

Cherie Lunghi and Ioan Gruffudd star in a new adventure for Hornblower (ITV, 8pm)

boots and shoes designed to be worn by men but made from red patent leather or fake leopard skin. some thigh-high or featuring stiletto heels reinforced to take the weight of a 15-stone man. Since money for promotion is short. Patennan decides to model the range himself for the mailorder catalogue. Some bosses, it seems, really will do anything to save their business . . .

Modern Times: Bookies Never Lose BBC2.9pm

Radio 4, 11.00am

It might be unusual to solicit sympathy for a book-maker, but Robert Davis and Alistair Cook make at decent fist of it in this profile of an East Londone? Barry, one of what might be the last generation of independent bookies who work actually at the race sindependent bookies who work actually at the race course. The big companies have been steadily squeezing out independent operators and the trend is probably irreversible. Barry has tasted success — posh motor, dining at top hotels — and was at one time able to indulge in drinking a bottle of whisky a day (after work, of course). Now he muses a stomach ulcer and has taken out a second mortgage to make ends meet; he also has a pitch miles from the grandstand. It almost makes you want to place a bet. Tony Patrick

Never ignore the obvious is a truism of

programme-making as much as it is of print journalism; and dogs, the nation's favourite pers, are always a good bet for a series in either medium. Crufts is at the NEC next month and this series begins beg

series begins with its origins: a dog biscuit salesman came up with the idea as a means of boosting sales and the first show was at the Agricultural Halls in Islington in 1886. I had always thought that the obsession with pedigree was a relatively recent phenomenon but here we discover that it dates back to the mid-19th century and beyond.

There is also some frightening genetic manipula-tion detailed in the programme: listen out for the

wolf-becomes-whippet sequence. Peter Barnard

BBC WORLD SERVICE

RADIO CHOICE Crufts - The History

Opera on 3: Peter Grimes Radio 3.7.10om

Radio 3.7.10pm

Strands and sub-strands are one of the rather irritating hallmarks of Radio 3 programming and tonight Opera on 3 acquires another level of labelling by becoming part of the Sounding the Century project. But that is undoubtedly justified for Peter Grimes is not just one of Benjamin Britten's key works; it is also one of the century's British classics, the tale of an outsider in a Sulfolk fishing village whose tragic fate seems preordained. Tonight's live relay comes from the New Theatre, Cardiff, where Welsh National Opera presents a new production of the opera. Peter Stein is the director. John Daszak sings the title role and Janice Watson is Ellen Orford, Grimes's only real friend in the insular community.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

per night and there is a suite 6.30am Scott Mills 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whiley 2.00 Mark Radolifie 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 3.00 The Evening Session 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kemode 10.10 Join Ped. A session by AC Acoustics 12.00am Blue Jam 1.00 Giles Peterson 4.00 Cive Warren that costs almost four times that amount. It lacks nothing in luxury, but Westwood be-

RADIO 2 (BBC)

5.00am The World Today 7.90 World News 7.15 Outfook 7.55 My Cerkury 8.00 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20 Off the Shelf-Captain Corell's Mandolin 8.35 One Planta 9.00 World News 9.05 Sounds Right 9.20 World Ranking 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Bratian Today 10.46 Legal World 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Sports International 12.00pm World News 12.05 Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 One Planta 2.30 Meridian Live 3.00 World News 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent 3.30 Jazzmaticz 4.00 World News 4.15 fresignt 4.30 Multitrack: X. Press 5.00 Europa Today 5.30 World Business Raport 6.46 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 7.05 One Planta 7.30 Legal World 7.45 Off the Shelf: Captain the Pops 2 on 2 (4/13) 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00am Karing Laskanich 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Momino Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbel 12.00pm The Midday News with Alan Robb 1.00 Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Edita 7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night Full Coverage of all the night's action, with commentation on the big game. Plus, the National Lottery draw 10.00 Littlejohn 11.00 Late Night Live 1.00ezs Up Ali Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Jacobs Justice 1.00 Arvia Raebum 3.00 Peter Decley 5.00 The SportZone 7.00 Oil Side with Seb Coe 8.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Crins Evans 9.30 Pluss Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Hamet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am James Merritt 4.30 Richard Allen

CLASSIC FM

6.00em Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates 8.00 Herry Kelly. The Hall of Ferne Hour and CD of the West 12.00pm Lunchtime Requests. Jane Markham spins listeners' lavourities 2.00 Concerto Poulenc Markham spirs listeners lavourites 2.00 Concerto Poulenc (Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra in D minor) 3.00 Jamie Crock Including Continuous Classics and Alternoon Romance 6.30 Newsmight, Headlines, arts news and guests 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seveo. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Dyrak (Symphonic Variations), Rubbra (Viola Concerto), Stenhammar (Serenade in F major) 11.00 Mann at Night, Music through till the small hours 2.00am Concerto. Poulenc (Concerto for Two Panos and Orchestra in D minor) for a Market Confessor. the small hours 2.00am Concerto Poulenc (Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra in D minor) (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The

Cine Planet 7.30 Legal World 7.45 Off the Shelf: Captain Corell's: Mendoin 8.00 Newshotr 9.00 World: News 9.05 World Business: Ropet 9.20, Sittain 170day 9.30 On Screen 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Multitract X-Press: 11.00 World News 11.05 Cutlook 12.00am The World Today 12.30 One Planet 12.35 My Century 1.00 The World Today 1.30 Mendian Live 2.00. The World Today 2.30 Exercises 3.00 The Morld Today 2.30 Secret Parall 12.30 News 11.00 The World Today 2.30 Secret Parall 12.30 News 11.00 The World Today 2.30 Secret Parall 12.30 Mendian Live 2.00. The World Today 9.30 Secret Parall 12.30 Mendian Live 2.00 Secret Parall

oman 3.00 The World Today 3.20 Sports Round-Lio

3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World

6.00em On Air Petroc Trefawny with music and arts news, including a review of last right's Kronos Cuartet concert in Glasgow
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Fasch (Trumpet Concerts in Di, Schubert (Plano Sonata in C. D840), Butten (Pretude and Fugue), Jamacek (Maci), Vorisek (Symphony in D)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Pascal Roge
11.00 Sound Stories: Planets — Venus With Richard Baker Includes Jean-Hern Anglebert (Sarabande Bith of Venus). Respipit (The Birth of Venus, Three Botticelis Pictures); Mozart (Venus's Ana, Ascano in Albaj, Holst (Venus, The Planets)
12.00 The Radio 3 Limichtime Concert Live from the Royal Concert Hail Pierre-Laurent Amand, plano
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philinammonic under Tadaelo Otaka and Vessity Sinaisty, Peter

2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic under Tadasko Otaka and Vassity Snaistry, Peter Dorchoe, paro, Nikita Storoyev, bass Leeds Festival Chorus, Hudderslield Choral Society Tchakovsky (Voyevoda: Plano Concerto No 3 in E fat minor, Concert, Fartasia in Gj. Snostakovich (Symphony No 13, Babl Yar)

4.00 Choral Evensong Live from Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, Organist and master of the choristers (an Tracey, Assistant organist tan Welfs 5.00 in Tune Sean Rafferty explores the dance rhythms of Spain with the plantst Martin Jones

7.10 Performance on 3: Peter Grimes Live from New Theatre Cardiff, Welsh National Opera's new

Peter Grimes, part three 10.45 Night Waves Laura Cummang discusses

10.45 Night Waves Laura Currrang discusses
T.J. Clark's huge historical undertaking, Farewell to an idea, which examines the history and demise of Modernism
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton takes to Cyrus Chesnut about his role in the film Kansas City
12.00am Composer of the Weeks Dvorak
1.00 Through the Night Includes 1.00 International.
Radio Archives A 1954 rectal by the planist:
Strandslay Richter 2.30 Vaughan Williams (See Songs) 2.45 Gentiniam (Concerto grosso No 12 in Dimar, after Corelli 3.00 Schools: Time and Ture 3.20 Together 3.40 Dance Workshop 4.00 The Song Tree 4.20 Scottish Resources 10-12
4.40 Talking Points S.00 Duparc (Chanson Insie)
5.20 Bach (Concerto in A minor for four harpsichoids) 5.40 Mozait (Five Contradances, K609) 5.50 Bellini, arr anon (Concerto in E flati)

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production of Britten's classic With John Daszak, lenor, Janice Watson, soprano, Donald Maxwell, bantone, Ann Howard, contraito, Peter Bronder, tenor, Chorus and Orchestra of Welsh Natronal Opera under Carlo Ruza, Part one, See Choice 8.10 The Original Peter Grimes, Tom Rosenthal compares the original Peter Grimes as depicted in the poem by the eccentric Suffolk poet George Crabbe to the one that Britten put on the stage 8.30 Peter Grimes, part two 9.25 Postscript; Doctors of Philosophy — Monlargne (3/5) 9.50 Peter Grimes, part three

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Instone Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Rural Issues, with Rachel Morgar 6.00 Today with John Humphrys and James Naughire 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 Midweek with the Libby Purves and guests 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 9.45 (FM) Seriet: The Spirit Wrestiers Part fince A

visit to the old Cossack communities in the south 10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests 11.00 Crufts New senes Sec Choice (1/3) 11.30 Tomorrow at the Same Time Jeffrey Robinson to the second the business of the American Maria Community (1/4) 11.30 Tomorrow at the Same Time Jeffrey Robinson to the Same Time Jeffrey Robinson the business while American Maria Community (1/4)

traces the history of the American radio scap opera of the 1930s and 1940s (r) opera of the 1940s and 1940s (f)
12.00pm (LW) News Heedlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consumer
news and mestigations presented by Mark
Vanitaker and Trime Rawlinson

1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Board Game The business qua
2.00 The Archers Yeslerday's editor in
2.15 Afternoon Play: Worden on Love — Cost
Promotion at work causes mantal difficulties in Tanika Gupta's drama, inspired by Vicky Feaver's poem Staming Adioa Andoh, Tony Armetrading, Rob Harper and Rachel Atlans

3.00 Gardeners' Creation Time Wyke Regis Hort-cultural Society members cuiz Bob Flowetdew, Roy Lancaster and Ame Swithinbank (t) Roy Lancaster and Anne Sardhinberth (f)
3.30 Sale of the Centrary Stephen Bayley examines
creativity in the lucrative world of advertising (r)
3.45 This Sceptred late Anna Massey nanales part 38
of the Instany of Britain (r)
4.00 All in the Mind Professor Anthony Clare explores

the lunes of the human mind Thinking Allewed: The Larger Map Laurie Taylor meets three people putting Stoke in the

5.00 PM with Care English and Nigel Wrench 6.00 Stx O'Clock News 6.30 Ballylenon Christopher Fitz-Simon's comedy

drama Samuel is learful of certain disclosures Staming T.P. McKenna, Margaret D'Arcy and Stella McCusker (r) McCusker (r)
7.00 The Archers Shala takes her test
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the ans

programme 7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Part eight. Broadcast

7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Part eight. Broadcast earlier as part of Worman's Hour (r)
8.00 The Moral Maze Michael Buerk presents topical debate, with Dand Starkey, Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook.
8.45 Lent Talks "Fries with contrasting religious beliefs discuss the Easter story (2/7)
9.00 Prontiers Peter Evans investigates such conditions as Aids and BSE, which only became cancurace once they of migrated into new species 9.30 Midweek Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Webb 10.45 Book at Bertime: Post Captein Patrick Malahide reads part eight of Patrick O'Brien's names move!

Malahide reads part only approximately Malahide reads part of Patrick O'Brien's risulties novel

11.00 Late Night on 4: Truty, Madily, Bletchley Julian Dutton's cornedy based in the fown of Bletchley. With Lc Frasec and Peter Hugo-Daly (2/6)

11.15 Macc Rentock's Palace Cornedy set in a Victorian' music-hall, written and performed by Mark McConnell and Steven McNicol (3/6)

11.30 (PM) Marenton A satincal spin on the world of money and the media by Nick Hildred (2/6) (n)

11.30 (LW) Today in Partiament Political update
12.00am Naves 12.30 The Late Book: Sam
Packimpath: If it Moves — Kill 'Em Part three.
Bit Hooftens mads David Weddle's biography of the director Sam Peckimpath.

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-80.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 933, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 646; LW 198 (12.45-5.55em). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO FM 105.9; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO MW 1053, 1089. the fistings compiled by Ian Hughes, Resembry Smith, Susan Thomson, is

Gay drama that's all mouth and no trousers

has no homosexuals - not still alive at any rate -Manchester has a thriving gay community around Canal Street, an area where community spirit manifests itself not by the locals regularly popping into each other's houses for a bowl of sugar but by the locals regularly popping into each other. For those of you who don't get out much, Channel 4 brought the mountain to Muhammed last night when it finally dragged its noisy new drama, Queer As Folk, out of the closet So, did you find the experience more enjoyable than you'd been expecting? Fancy coming back for more of the same next week?

There's no getting round the homosexuality Treating Queer As Folk as just another TV drama which just happens to feature gays is like pretending Cyrano de Bergerac is like any other bloke, though, now you mention it, he

dues seem to have the most whopping nose: it's funny that I didn't notice it before.

Cyrano is half man, half nose. But what makes him captivating is love-struck, selfless, tragic man who is trapped by other people's obsessions with his hooter. People can't see past his nose, literally or figuratively. It's not that he wants people to act as if he doesn't have a nose as big as Apollo 13, but he does want people to see beyond it. So, if we look beyond the gayness in Queer As Folk, is there anything more complex there? Or is it about gays the way Emanuelle is about sex — that is, if Sylvia Kristel didn't get her kit off every four minutes you'd just as soon go to bed and read Investor's Chronicle? I think there probably is more, but Queer As Folk is trying so

hard to taunt primmer viewers

slightly bored while it gets its bravado out of its system. At times it was like listening to a precocious child who thinks he's impressing the world by using needlessly long that he's a romantic, shy, poetic, words; most of which he manages to mispronounce slightly, thereby fraying the effect a bit.

The whole thing moves along at a zippy pace (unzippy too, obviously). It is sharply written, by Russell T. Davies, it's madly glossy (Manchester's gays live in lofts so spacious you could play the FA Cup Final in them). And — like Sex and the City. other series which Channel 4 has been trying desperately hard to have lambasted by an outraged press, and which was also set in an improbably glossy world — it is well acted: Aidan Gillen, the rich, handsome 29-year-old around whom the action (and half of into being affronted that it's in Manchester's gay community) danger of making the rest of us revolves, carries his air of smug.

REVIEW

Joe

Joseph

self-satisfied rapture so well that it makes orgasms seem superfluous. Charles McDougall's direction is so fast you need to hail a cab to keep up.

But so far, it's slightly unengaging. If Queer As Folk didn't have the novelty of gay sex, would anyone have made the same fuss about it? Or got excited about it in a positive way, rather than just because they were

outraged by its depiction of under-age man-boy sex? It has a certain cynicism that could just be stab at chic metropolitan knowingness, but you can imagine it leaving a nasty taste in many viewers' mouths.

Brighton, of course, used to be the place to find queers, peers and racketeers. Now it has Julie Burchill. "It is a horrible thing to say," said Toby Young in Close Up: Who Does Julie Burchill Think She Is? (BBC2), "but if she'd been killed in a car crash, about five years ago, that would have been perfect. It's as though Elvis, or Marilyn Monroe, or John Lennon hadn't died, and they'd hung around and they'd become these awful parodies of themselves." Can you tell that Toby and Julie had a small falling-out?

Burchill calls herself a "one-trick pony, but I do it quite well", and Nikki Hinman and Simon Chu's lively documentary seemed to be wondering if this 39-year-old pony was now fit only for the knacker's yard. Young - whom Burchill wanted to replace as editor of Modern Review (the magazine she mostly financed) with a young girl with whom she had fallen in love - was the loudest voice for the prosecution.

ost of the other wimesses seemed to feel ■ V ■ that even if the pony wasn't quite as frisky in print as she was in her heyday, she can still kick like a mule in a way that poorer columnists can't. And with Burchill you're never sure when her next heyday might be. Her career hasn't traced a conventional rise-and-fall trajectory. It has moved, rather, like the bouncing bomb: every time you think it might be going under, it leaps upwards for another bounce. As she pointed out, there are so many Burchill wannabes out there that every now and then an editor turns up who thinks, why not pay a little more and hire the real thing? Her shamelessness, fearlessness, honesty, and her pathological need to shock, along with her unshakeable self-belief, could produce an unpalatable cocktail, but her skill is that she has made them work: often

dazzlingly. Workers At War (BBCI) showed what happens when the staff want more serious revenge than verbal feuding. Toby Young took his revenge against Burchill by closing down her magazine. To feature in last night's Workers At War he'd have had to burn down her house, too. Here were people angry at being sacked, or not hired, or unpaid — who didn't know where to draw the line when they got mad. It's usually best to forgive and forget. But it's true that it's much easier to forgive once you've got even.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (83076) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (12415) 9.00 Kilroy (T) (8689453) 9.45 The Vaneasa Show (T) (4095328) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (6150892) 11.00 Change That (6177569) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6147328) 11.55 News; Weather (T) (1320415) 12.00pm Call My Bluff (80714)

12.30 Wipeout (3596427) 12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48893279) 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (15502) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (47515347) 1.40 Neighbours Mike moves into Ramsay Street (T) (25494502)

2.05 Ironside Mark celebrates his graduation, and makes a career choice (r) (3541163) 2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (I) (5895453)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6718182)
3.45 Little Monsters (2688786) 3.50
ChuckleVision (5427298) 4.10 See it Saw
it (3920892) 4.35 The Wild House
(5580347) 5.00 Newsround (2020415)
5.10 Rius Peter (88272057) 5.10 Blue Peter (6672057)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (935618) 6.00 Stx O'Clock News; Weather (T) (279) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (231)



Craig Doyle introduces a selection of bargain holiday ideas (7pm)

7.00 Holiday on a Shoestring New series. Craig Doyle presents the best in bargain holidays (1/6) (T) (4328) 7.30 Tomorrow's World New presenter Lindsey Fallow reports on a revolutionary design for crash helmets (T) (415)

8.00 Changing Rooms Two Knebworth homes are made over (T) (3076) 8.30 Comic Relief Jukebox (T) (293250) 8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck

Stories (T) (195279) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6237) 9.29 National Lottery Update (669705)

9.30 Jasper Carrott: Back to the Front New series. The Brummie funnyman celebrates 30 years In showbusiness (1/8) (T) (45182)

10.00 The X Files A priest enlists the agents' help when a young disabled girl's body is 10.45 Ruby Wax Meets Goldie Hawn Ruby interviews the Hollywood star (1) (213637)

11.15 Black and White (3/3) (1) (809569) 11.50 Victim of Beauty (1991) A woman whose beauty-queen sister has been abducted sets out to trap the sadistic kidnapper (T) (756142): 1.25am Weather (5129545) 1,30 BBC News 24 (8707125)

10.45 The State (T) (213637) 11.15 Ruby Wax Meets Goldie Hawn (r) (202250) 11.45 Black and White (3/3) (1) (652873) 12.20am FILM: Victim of Beauty (1) (997545) 1.55 News (1) (8204458) 2.00-6.00 BBC News 24 (5690699)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Tales of the Tooth Fairies 7.05 Teletubbles 7.30 Snorks 7.50 The Really Wild Show 8.18 Rewind 8.20 Tez-Mana 8.40 Polks Dot Shorts 8.50 Tales of the Tooth Faires 9.00 Environment 9.10 What? Where? When? Why? 9.25 The Art 9.45 Words and Pictures 10.00 Teletubbies 10.30 Numbertime 10.45 Cats' Eyes 11.00 Around Scotland 11.20 The Geography Programme 11.40 Science in Action 12.00pm Revista 12.15 Halio aus Berlin 12.30 Working Lunch 1.00 Brum

1.10 The Travel Hour (r) (9523231)
2.10 International Tennis: The Guardian Direct Cup First-round highlights from Battersea Park (61679540)

2.40 News; Weather (T) (3948618) 2.45 Westminster Political news (2845144) 3.55 News; Weather (T) (6889076)

4.00 Kaye (6899453) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6892540) 4.55 Esther Car-lovers (1) (T) (2813908) 5.25 Today's the Day (T) (6691182)

5.50 Lifeline War on Want (r) (1) (534279)

6.00 Star Treic The Next Generation Troi's mother decides to get manied (487908) 6.40 Buffy the Vampire Slayer Willow is possessed by an exil spirit (T) (243786) 7.25 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen (296927) 7.30 Sophie Grigson's Herbs Sage and

onion stuffinge (T) (647) 8.00 The House Detectives Juliet Morris and the House Deutsches Juan Morris and the team provide a gimpse into the history of a Cumbria chemist (r) (T) (1618) 8.00 WALES: Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey (8/8) (T) (1618)

8.30 Looking Good with Lown Turner (3453) 9.00 Modern Times: Bookies Never Lose A film following the independent on-course bookle Barry



9.50 Trouble at the Top New series. A failing family shoe business gambles on comering a market in kinky boots for men (1/6) (T) (513706) 10.28 Video Nation Shorts (279863)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (653182) 11.15 Comedy Nation Experimental sketches, with Ricky Grover (201892)
11.45 10x10 Beirut residents remember their

city as it was before the war (T) (358540) 11.55 Weather (953144)

12.00am Despatch Box (76854) 12.30 SBC Learning Zone: Open University: Home and Away 1.00 Looking Glass World 1.30 Our Invisible Sun 2.00 Schools: Special Needs — Landmarks: The Caribbean and Coping with the Climate 4.00 Languages: Italianissimo 13-16 5.00 Business and Training: RCN Nursing Updates -- Clinical Effectiveness: What's the Evidence? 5.45 Open University: The Sunbaskers 6.10 Therapies on Trial 6.35 Health and

5.30am fTN Morning News (29366)

6.00 GMTV (7365714). 9.25 Trisha (1) (5056279) 10.30 This Morning (T) (11153786) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (7722415) 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (T)

1.00 Next Stop Richard Wyatt, Poliy Lloyd and correspondents review local news tive from Wotton-Under-Edge (40298) 1.00 WALES: Shortland Street Chris regrets his lost opportunities (40298)

1.30 Home and Away Joey's condition worsens (1) (26057) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous US talk show (T) (5474618)

2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (313076) 3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (8155340) 3.20 HTV News (T) (1305863) 3.25 CTTV: Mopatop's Shop (8050796) 3.35 Teddybears (3766637) 3.45 Jurnaniji

(6607908) 4.10 Whizziwg (6872786 4.40 Med for It (2804250) 5.10 A Country Practice Darcy operates on

Billy's dog (9812347) 5.40 FTN Early Evening News (T) (559347) 5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (539724) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (884786) 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (738144) 6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (156540) 6.30 The West Tonight (1) (927)

7.00 Emmerdale Kelly throws herself at Roy



Roy (David Nellson) and Nick (Adam Rickitt) serve al fresco (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street It's judgment day for

8.00 Homblower The third of four feature-length charms charting the exploits of the seafaring hero, Hornblower. With loan Gruffudd. Robert Lindsay and Cherie Lunghi (3/4) (T) (4279)

10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (93231) 10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (936057) 10.40 The Big Match FA Cup fifth-round replay highlights (761540)

11.40 Renegade Reno takes on a gang of cattle rustiers who have injured a friend of Bobby (874873) 12.40am White Lie (1991) Gregory Hines stars as a successful political aide trying to uncover the truth behind his father's

murder. Drama starring Annette O'Toole. Directed by Bill Condon (165019) 2.20 Masterclass Thomas Allen (7402496)

2.50 Judge Judy Cameras record real-life court cases (1946800) 3.20 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (9952564) 4.20 Videotech: Brits Winners Special Review of the last week's spectacular music ceremony (r) (47666380)

4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (88552564) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (45545)

CENTRAL As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; Weather (T) (8121347) 1.00 Echo Point (40298) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (1225908) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (T) (314705) 3.20-3.25 Central News (T) (1305363) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9812347) 6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (T) (738144) 10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (1) (936057) 11.40 Tales from the Vestrier (1) (93005/) 11.40 Tales from the Crypt (r) (177502) 12.10am-12.45 Short Story Chema (2048767) 3.10 Trisha (r) (T) (9955651) 4.10 Central Jobfinder '99 (T) (4455403) 5.20-6.30 Asian Eye (7030748)

MESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (7722415) 12.27-12.30 Illuminations (8139366) 1.00 Emmerdale (r) (T) (40298) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (1225908) 2.15-2.45 Home Springer Show (1) (122890) 2.13-2.43 Holine and Away (T) (314705) 3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (1305863) 5.08 Birthday People (5907873) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (T) (9812347) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (T) (35705) 10.30-10.40 Westcountry Live (T) (35705) 10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (936057) 11.40-12.40 Doomsday (874873)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except. 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (7722415) 1.00-1.35 Shortland Street (9582250) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1) (9812347) 6.00 Meridian ...ight (1, ---7) 6.30-7.00 Country Vets (2/6) (r) (927) 10.30-10.40 Meridian News; Weather (1) (936057) 11.40-12.40 Anatomy of Disaster (874873) 5.00am-5.30 Freescreen

MINE PARTY

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8133182) 12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (8121347) 1.00-1.35 Shortland Street (9582250) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away Street (\$582250) 5.10-2.40 Nome and Away (T) (\$612347) 5.59 Anglia Weather (T) (\$39724) 6.00 Anglia News (T) (347) 6.30-7.00 Whipsnade (\$/13) (T) (\$27) 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (679809) 10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather (T) (\$36057) 11.40-12.40 In Suspicious Circumstances (r) (T) (874873)

- Sec

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (r) (47286076) the Websters and Roy and Nick resort to 7.00 The Big Breekfast (34713540) 9.00 Rat-A-Tat-Tat (94831811) 9.45 Book Box (94836366) 10.00 Stage Two Science (20240328) 10.15 All About Us (20263279) 10.30 The French Programme: Channel Hopping (69527163) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (21521434) 11.00 Yr Amgylchedd (95198076) 11.15 Tackling Technology (95111927) 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (4029521) (95111927) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (40295521) 12.00pm Bewitched (T) (29112434) 12.30 Sesame Street (1) (38750521) 1.00 Planed Plant (1) (34723927) 1.30 Roots to Success (1) (34832892) 1.45 FILM: Laughter in Paradise (1) (37353521) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (81655705) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (81667540) 4.30 Dishes (T) (81663724) 5.00 (81687540) 4.30 Disnes (1) (01003/24) 3-0-0 Piersed Plant (T) (64144415) 5.30 Countdown (T) (81654076) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (T) (54966298) 6.10 Heno (T) (16832705) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (T) (64164279) 7.30 Newyddion (T) (81664453) 8.00 Ffermio (T) (64173927) 8.30 Pacio (T) (64152434) 9.00 ER (T) (14919237) 10.00 Brookside (T) (60854144) 10.35 Sex and the City (T) (56261182) 11.05 The Real Story of Airtours Air Rage (T) (67002366), 11.35 Mark Thomas Comedy Product (T) (99308637) 12.10am The Spying Game (3/6) (T) (32566187) 12.45 Le Tour de Lang Kawi 1999 (20077922) 1.45 Footbali Italia: Mezzanotte (66946403) 4.05 Trans

CHANNEL 4 6.00em Sesame Street (76786)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (38453)

9.00 Schools: Science for Today (10908) 9.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat (T) (1511250) 9.45 Book Box (T) (1516705) 10.00 Stage Two Science (T) (9752618) 10.15 All About Us (9775569) 10.30 French Programme: Channel Hopping (7575366) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (1) (3208434) 11.00 First Edition VI (8891415) 11.15 Tackling Technology (T) (8814366)

11.30 Powerhouse (T) (7250) 12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (90144)

12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (25328) 1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (31540) 1.30 The Three Stooges (r) (13240705)
1.50 Captain Boycott (1947) Historical drama about Irish larmers' resistance to a tyrannical landowner in the late 19th

century. With Stewart Granger. Directed by Frank Launder (T) (46199076) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (705)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (540) 4.30 Countdown (T) (5574786) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (3138989) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (796)

6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue Cornedy, cooking and chat with Mei Gledroyc and Sue Perkins (33347) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (143347)

7.55 Transition: Lagos Stories The deputy governor of Lagos State, Kolo Buckner-Akerele, talks about her efforts to improve social conditions in Lagos (T) (206237) 8.00 Brookside Ryan sets out to prove Luke's innocence (T) (6786) 8.30 The Real Hollday Show A painting

holiday in Alicante, salling in the West Indies and four days of foxhunting in Ireland. Last in series (r) (T) (8521) 9.00 ER Weaver applies to be chief, while

Jeanie makes a life-or-death decision and Hathaway and Evans clash over how to treat a gang member (T) (1569) 10.00 Sex and the City Carrie starts to charge (T) {91873}

10.30 The Real Story of Airtours Air Rage A behind-the-headlines look at the recent disturbance aboard a Jamaica-bound charter plane (30291)



More satire and elaborate hoaxes with Mark Thomas (11pm)

11.00 Mark Thomas Comedy Product Includes a piece on a secret American

listening station (T) (8502) 11.30 So Graham Norton With Brenda Blethyr and Gloria Hunniford (r) (T) (788796) 12.10am boardstupid Snowboarding news

and events (r) (2046309) 12.45 Le Tour de Langkawi 1999 Coverage of the gruelling 2,000km bicycle touring eveni (465729)

1.45 Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up of the week's action (75944903)

4.05 Trans World Sport (4429748) 5.00 Defenders of the Wild Europe's honey buzzards (1/3) (5996632)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (6170786)
7.00 WideWorld Part four. Teaching children to enjoy reading (r) (T) (6545927)

7.30 Milikshakel (6842881) 7.35 Wimzie's House (r); 5 News Update

(3790453)

8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4573927) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (4572298)

9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (1265434) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (7990705)

9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (6643989) 10.20 Sunset Beach Arry agrees to return the emerald (T) (1643182) 11.10 Leeza (4052705)

12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4543786) 12.30 Family Affairs Yasmın agrees to come home (r) (T); 5 News Update (9588960)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Grant

confides in Katie (T) (6544298) 1.30 The Roseanne Show Melanie Griffith takes time off from her new TV series and working on Woody Allen's film Celebrity to talk to Roseanne (r) (9587231)

2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5733960) 2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment; 5 News Update (1386540)

3.30 Menu for Murder (TVM 1990)
Whodusnit about the strange circumstances surrounding the death of an unpopular school PTA president. Morgan Fairchild and Julia Dulfy star. Directed by

Larry Peerce (9370502) 5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (1); 5 News Update (1596863)

6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz (6990705) 6.30 Family Affairs Pete is absolutely furious with Claire (T) (6981057) 7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5744076)

7.30 Champions of Nature Lisa Gould visits Madagascar, home of the ring-tailed lemur (T); 5 News Update (6910569) 8.00 Tsunami: Killer Wave Eyewitness accounts and reconstructions of gian

tidal waves, reaching 100ft in height and travelling at speeds of up to 500 mph. The result of volcanic activity on the sea floor, these natural disasters have wreaked havoc for thousands of years and threaten to do so again (r) (1); 5 News Update (1832298)

9.00 The Name of the Rose (1986) Sean Connery plays a friar investigating a series of mysterious murders at a 14th-century Italian monastery. Jeanbased on Umberto Eco's bestselling novel, also starring Christian Slater F. Murray Abraham, Michael Lonsdale and Ron Periman. Directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud (T); 5 News

Update (1988811) 11.30 Melinda's Big Night in With Vidal Sassoon (7199328)

12.05am UK Raw A homecam adult website (2/10) (4644477) 12.35 Live NHL Ice Hockey Richard Orford and Todd Macklin report on the Western

Conference clash between St Louis Blues and Los Angeles Kings (82895038) 4.40 The Movie Chart Show News and

5.05 Move On Up (r) (46434941) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9535816)

HISTORY

<u>Li</u>ving

CARLTON FOOD

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4.00pm The Cavil War The People's Resolution 5.00 Classic Cars Volvo 6.00 Secret Mounds of Prehistoric America 7.00 Warhorse The Iron Horse

9.00am Food Network Daily 9.30 Coxon's Kitchen College 10.00 Feasts of the World 10.30 Alive and Cooking 11.00 What's Cooking? 11.30 A Sice of the Action 12.00pm Food Network Daily 12.30 Scotland's Larder 1.00 Coxon's Kitchen College 1.30 From the Ground Up 2.00 Mindula's Indian Kitchen 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Loyd's Louistana 3.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Loyd's Louistana 3.30 A Sice of the Action 4.00 Thoroughly Modern British 4.30 Chez Bruno 5.00 Close

6.00am Tiny and Crew 6.20 Johnson and Friends 6.30 Greedysaurus and the Gang 6.40 Tiny Tales 6.45 Philiperi the Frog 6.50

Polka Dot Shorts 7.00 Practical Parenting

Polsa Dor Shorts 7.00 Practical Parenting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.30 Calibu 7.35 Bug Alert 7.85 Practical Parenting 8.00 Barney and Fhends 8.25 Babaloos 8.30 Callou 8.35 Tary and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 9.00 Can't Cook. Won't Cook 9.30 The Roseanne Show 18.00 The Jerry Springer Show 18.50 May Powch 11.40 Brookside 12.10pm Animal Rescue 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Special Bables 1.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Special Bables 1.40 Rescue 911 Fact or Fiction 2.10 LA Law 3.10 Living Room 4.00 Michael Cole 4.50 Ro londs 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.10 Maury Powch 9.50 FB.Mit Burled Secrets (1996) 11.00 Sec Life Down Under 12.00am Close 7FF TV

PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

• For further listings see Saturday's Vision

7.00asn Count Duckula (65521) 7.30 Chris Evens (66250) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (45618) 9.00 Sally Jessy Rapheet (55705) 10.00 Oprah Winfrey (73540) 11.00 Guttyl (60076) 12.00pan Jenny Jones (66453) 1.00 Med Alcout You (64692) 1.30 Jeopardy (73989) 2.00 Sally Jessy Rephael (26502) 3.00 Jenny Jones (94521) 4.00 Guinyl (70328) 5.00 Shar Treit Voyager (922) 6.00 Amenca's Dumbeet Criminals (6269) 7.30 Sampsons (2005) 8.00 Mortal Kombet Compuest (21540) 9.00 The X Files (18078) 10.00 Nelsed in Westminster (11163) 11.00 Eriends (71057) 11.30 Sar Treit Voyager (27144) 12.30am The C 7.00am Count Duckula (65521) 7.30 Chris Trek: Voyager (27144) 12.30am The Commish (19293) 1.30 Long Play (7297458)

SKY BOX OFFICE The Proteom (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Good Will Hunting (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Good Burner (1997) SKY SOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) The Postman (1997) Good Burger (1997) As Good as it Gets (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)

The Edge (1997) FILMFOUR 6.00puz Zero De Conduite (1933) (4274995) 6.45 L'Atelente (1934) (97656231) 8.20 The Last Bettle (1983) (28983976) 10.00 Subway (1985) (582569) 11.45 The Jilg Blue (1988) (74366584) 2.30cm Braindend (1992) (5671816) 4.10 Living in Oblivion (1995)

SKY PREMIER 6.00aus Coccoo (1985) (97989) 8.00 Angais in the Attic (1997) (40724) 10.00 Keeping the Promise (1997) (76076) 12.00pm Old Gringo (1989) (30347) 2.00 Coccoo (1985) (58847) 4.00 Angels in the Attic (1997) (1973) 6.00 Keeping the Promise (1997) (53724) 8.00 Been (1997) (25365) 10.00 The Devil's Own (1997) (25365) 10.00 The Devil's Own (1997) (501188) 11.50 The Portrait of P Lady (1996) (80320219) 2.15em The Jurer (1996) (824477) 4.15 Old Gringo (1989) (167090)

SKY MOVIEMAX
5.15am Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Hoppiness on the Planet of the Apes (1974) (18910808) 7.00 Ferrmes-Palalesy (57969) 7.30 Action Heroes (5386250) 8.15 Movie Magic (3051188) 9.00 Chealing the Deer (1994) (39618) 11.00 Unwed Father (1997) (22540) 1.00pm Ferrmes Falales (5960) 1.00 Action Heroes (9004908) 2.15 Movie Magic (2142618) 3.00 Chealing the Deer (1994) (34500582) 4.40 hranhoe (1982) (25331724) 7.00 Unweid Father (1997) (50057) 8.30 E Week in Review (9279) 9.00 Broken Stence (1987) (25095) 11.00 Russible in the Bronx (1995) (55882) 12.30am Russidem Encounter (1997) (313729) 2.05 Termessee Nights (1989) (835293) 3.50 SAY (1987) (894532)

SKY CINEMA 4.00pm Sheriock Holises and the Secret Code (1946) (496980) 5.30 Hall of Fams: Kirk Dougles (382506) 6.00 In Name Only (1939) (1699989) 8.00 Flying Lanth-ernacks (1951) (1894434) 10.00 Camfight at the OK Corral (1957) (87035569) 12.05 1 Walk the Line (1970) (550899) 1.45 The Sniper (1952) (4635564) 3.20 The White Tower (1950) (2863836)

9.00pm The Night of the Iguena (1864) (21035163) 11.15 Sweet Bird of Youth (1982) (80048340) 1.30sm Ringe and Ms Golden Pistol (1985) (54307380) 3.00 Golden Frank (1960) The Night of the Iguana (1964) (3082318) 5.00 Clase SKY SPORTS 1

7.00mm Sports Centre 7.15 Westling 8.15 You're On Sky Sports! 9.00 Record News 9.30 Aerobics 10.00 Inside Scotlish Fool-boll 11.00 Fastray 11.30 Total Sport 12.00 bell 11.00 Fastrax 11.30 Total Sport 12.00
Aerobica 12.30 Snooker 2.30 Fastrax 3.00
Inside Scottish Footbell 4.00 Superbouts
5.00 Wresting 6.00 Sports Centre 6.30
Unbetweble Sports 7.00 Pool Leegue 8.00
Ringside 9.30 Unbetweble Sports 10.00
Sports Centre 10.15 You're On Sky Sports
11.00 Spanish Footbell 12.00em Sports
Centre 12.15 You're On Sky Sports 1.00
FA Cup Special 2.30 Sponish Footbell 3.30
Sports Centre 2.45 Close Sports Centre 3.45 Close SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style 7.30 Sporte Centre 7.45 Racing News 8.15 Fastres

8.45 Sports Centre 9.00 Fish TV 10.00 Gotf 8.46 Sports Centre 9.00 High 1V 19.00 Got Extra Special 11.20 Motor Racing 1.30pm Got Extra Special 3.00 Sports Unfilmited 4.00 Premier Shooker League 8.00 Watersports World 7.00 Live FA Cup Footbal 10.00 Watersports World 11.00 Unbelieveble Sports 11.30 Pingside 1.00mm World Pool League 2.00 Sports Centre 2.15 Closs

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00pm: World Wrestling Federation. Shotgun 1.00 Fish TV 2.00 Bowing Superbours 2.00 Motor Recing 5.00 Got Eura Special 6.30 European Tour Got Weeldy 7.00 Live Golf 11.00 Second Innings 11.30 Close EUROSPORT

7.50em Footbell: Europoels 8.00 Women's Alpine Stang 9.30 Live Nordo Sking 11.30 Terris 12.00pm Alpine Sking 12.30 Notolo Sking 1.30 Live Nordo Sking 2.30 Live Women's Alpine Sking 3.30 Live Ternis 4.30 Nordo Sking 8.30 Live Women's Alpine Sking 8.15 Starf Your Engines 7.00 Live Ternis 8.30 Darts 9.30 Firess 10.30 Nordo Sking 11.65 Starf Your Engines Nordic Sking 11.45 Start Your Eng-12.30am Close UK GOLD

7.00am Crossmads 7.30 Heighbours 7.55 EastEnders 6.30 The Bill 9.00 The Bill 9.30 When the Scat Comes in 10.30 Rhods 11.00 Dallas 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Juliet Bravo 2.00 Dallas 2.55 The B# 3.25 The B# 3.55 Ee 2.55 the Bit 3.25 the Bit 3.35 East-hours 4.30 Phode 5.00 Al Cheatures Great and Small 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 2point4 Children 7.40 Dad's Army 8.20 The Britise Empire 9.00 Men Behaving Badly - 9.40 Men Behaving Badly 10.20 Men Behaving Badly 11.09 Only Fools and Horses 12.45am The Bill 1.15 The Bill 1.45 Dangerield 2.45 Shopping with Screenshop

6.00am Within These Wells 7.00 Bowler 7.30 Doctor At Large 8.00 Beache's About 8.30 The Many Wives of Patrick 9.00 Classic Connection Street 8.30 Emmerdials Form 10.00 Instate Descriptor 11.00 The

Clessic Coronation Street 9.30 Emmerdate Farm 18.00 Upstates Downsters 11.00 The Gentle Touch 12.00pm Classic Coronation Street 12.30 Emmerdate Farm 1.00 The Mary Whee of Parket 1.30 Pig. in the Middle 2.00 Upstarn Downstews 3.00 The Love Boat 4.00 The Sant 8.00 Hart to Hart 8.00 Emmerdate Farm 6.30 Classic Coronation Street 7.00 Mission, Impossible

CARLTON SELECT 5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gndlock 6.00 London Bridge 6.30 Get Back 7.00 Boon 8.00 Men of the World 8.30 Super-DISNEY CHANNEL GRANADA PLUS ·



8.00 Love Boat 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 The Cornections 10.00 Jokers Wild 10.30 Sez Les 11.00 Men and Motors

Classic Torns 1.00 May 1.00 Ma

Family 1,00 Bite Size 1.10 Tots TV 1.30 The Big Garage 1,45 PB and J O ther 2.00 New Adventures of Winnie the Pools 2.30 Quack Pack 3.00 The Little Mermaid 3.30 Art Assack 4.00 101 Dalmatiens 4.30 Hercules: The TV Show 5.00 Recess 5.15 Popper Ann 5.30 Smart Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Mercs World 7.00 FBLNL Clindaresta (1997) 9.50 Decess 6.80 Merces 1.50 print the 8.30 Drossurs 9.00 Honey I Strunk the Kids The TV Show 9.45 Home improvement 10.00 Mega Movie Magic 10.30 The Worder Years 11.00 Touched by

an Angel 12.00am Crose **FOX KIDS NETWORK**

6.00mm Adventures of Dodo 6.05 Power Rangers Turbo 6.30 Power Rangers Turbo 6.35 Spiderman 7.20 Oggy and the Cockroaches 7.30 Donkey Kong Country 8.00 Horo Turtles: The Next Mutation 8.25 The incredible Hulk 8.50 from Man 9.15 Fantestic Four 9.40 X-Man 18.05 Casper 10.30 Oppy and the Cockroaches 10.66 EakiStrawagartza 11.05 Bobby's World 11.30 Life with Louis 11.55 Home to Reni 12.05pm Denns and Grasher 12.30 Donkry Kong County 1.00 Move@ The

ures of Jungle Book 1.25 Ace Ventura 1.95 The Incredible Hulk 2.20 Iron Man 2.45 Fartastic Four 3.10 X-Man 3.30 Fox Kida X-Press 3.35 Spitteman 4.00 Goosebumps 4.25 Hero Turtles The Next Mutation 4.50 Casper 5.00 Dennis at Gnasher 5.30 Ace Ventura 6.00 Donk Kong Country 6.50 EskiStreveganza 6. Oggy and the Cockmaches 7.00 Close NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life 6.30 Bruno the Kid 7.00 CatDog 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 The Wild Thomberny 8.30 Arthur 9.00 Children's BBC 10.00 Wirtce's House 10.30 Babar 11.00 The Magir School Bus 11.30 PB Bear/Animal Antus/Family Ness 11.30 PB Beal/Armal Artis/Family Ness 12.00pm Rugrain 12.30 Bue's Clues 1.00 Benarias in Pylemas 1.30 Little Bear Stories 2.00 Chategers/king Refo/Worntdes/Bod 2.30 Chitden's BBC 3.00 Chitden's BBC 3.30 Arthur 4.00 Three Friends and Jeny 4.30 Rugrais 8.00 Seter Seter 5.30 Sebrina the Teenage Witch 6.00 Renford Rejects 6.30 Moestra 7.00 Close BRAVO

8.00pm A-Team 9.00 LAP.D 9.30 Cops 10.00 Late Lounge 10.30 Erotic Confessions 11.00 FILM: The Partic In Needle Partic (1971) 1.00am Sex Bytes 1.35 Erotic Senes 2.05 The Late Lounge 2.35 Cops 3.05 FILM: Undefestable (1993) 5.00 LAP.D.S. 30 Bushbids 6.00 Cops LAPD 5.30 Bushido 6.00 Close PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Jenny 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00
Ellen 8.30 NewsRadio 9.00 Drop the Dead
Donkey 9.30 Whose Line is it Anywey?
10.00 Frasier 10.30 Cheers 11.00 Senfeld
11.30 The Larry Sanders Show 12.00em
Late Night with David Letterman 1.00 Tax
1.30 The Chitc 2.00 Dr Kaiz 2.30 Tibs and
Fire 8.00 Alkhitetomy 3.50 Alkhite

Fibs 3.00 Nightstand 3.30 Abbot and Costello 4.00 Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7.30am Bloomberg Information Television 8.00 Sightings 9.00 Battlester Galectica 10.00 Quentum Leap 11.00 Derk Shadows 11.30 The Rey Brachury Theatre 12.00pm The Twickley Zone 3.9 The Twickley Zone 3.9 The Twitch Zone 12.30 The Twitch Zone 1.00 Takes of the Unexpected 1.30 Takes of the Unexpected 1.30 False of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stories 2.30 Mysteree, Magic and Miracios 3.60 Battlester Galactica 4.00 The Incredible Factor: Chromotos of the Paranomal 10.00 FILLS: The Rusning Man (1967) 12.00am PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranomal 1.00 FILM: Swamp Thing (1982) 2.45 So-Focus Special 3.00 The Twight Zone 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE 6.00em Today's Gournet 6.30 Gratem Kerr 7.00 Room Service 7.30 The Petraled House 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A 895/ Story 9.00 Semply Petraling 9.25 The Horns and Lesture Hour 9.30 Potted History with Antony Hern 10.00 Real Gardens 10.30 Cooleabout with Greg and Max 11.00 The Diceman 11.30 Fishing Australia 12.00pm Our House Down Linder 12.30 Antonion Our House Down Under 12.30 Antiques Trail 1,00 Our House 1,30 Hometime 2,00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Via 3.00 This Old House with

Autopus Res Hunt Festing Adventures 4.30
Walker's World 5.00 Wheel Nuts 5.30
Treasure Hunters 6.00 Wildlife SOS 6.30
Wild Dogs 7.30 The Begent Soution 8.00
Arihur C Clarke's Mystenous Universe 8.30
Creatures Farthastic 9.00 Crieriots of the
Gods. The Mystenes Continue 10.00 The
Curse of Tutarkhamen 17.00 Master Spea
The Deady Germa 12.00em Dead Sea
Scrolls. Unravelling the Mystery 1.00
Treasure Hunters 1.30 Wheel Nuts 2.00
Close

DISCOVERY

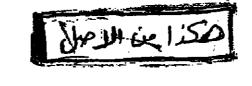
ANIMAL PLANET 12.00pm Totally Australia 1.00 Nature Watch with Julian Petiller 1.30 Crocodia Hunter 2.00 All-Bird TV 2.30 Human/Nature 3.30 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jack Harme's Zoo Life 4.30 Animal Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Crocodile Hunter 6.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 6,30 Lasse 7.00 Rediscovery of the World 8,00 Animal Doctor 8,30 Horse Tales 9,00 Going Wild 9.30 Emergancy Vets 10.00 Croccode Hunter 11.00 Wildlife EA 11.30 Emergency

Vets 12.00em Close NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00pm Scarlel Skies 7.30 Bali: Island of Artists 8.00 Man Esters: The Siberian Tiges — Predistor or Prey? 9.00 Ron Hawk. Preciance in a World of Risk 10.00 Biller

5.00em Lolly Pop 5.30 Music Time 6.00 Out and About 6.30 Yoodle-Ae-Co 7.00 Faith: Christian 7.30 News 8.00 India Business Report 8.30 Salago 9.00 Pishtey. Business Report 8.30 Saliash 9.00 Rishay: The Love Stones 10.00 Sofia 11.00 Asshena 11.30 Parampara 12.00pm FILM: Dian Dey Saudey 3.00 Zee Bengta 3.30 Hum Paanch 4.00 Akins Bribar 4.30 Et Minute 5.00 Jungte Book 5.30 Gumah 6.00 Top of the Tops 6.30 Baneg April Baat 7.00 Baat Barr Jaye 7.30 It's My Choice 8.00 Nows 8.30 Amanar 9.00 Hawash 10.00 Nows 8.30 Amanar 9.00 Hawash 10.00 Nows 8.30 Amanar 9.00 Hawash Women 11.00 On the Edge. The Last Wild

ZEE TY

nues runks 8.30 Amanat 9.00 Hewesin 10.00 Blue Pe lidia 10.30 Vin Puruksheire 12.00am News 12.30 Tendoori Massia 1.00 Zee Bangia 1.30 Ra ahat 2.00 FR.Mt Testi Movie; Devati 4.30 Val No University





RACING 43

Favourite for 1,000 Guineas sustains fatal injury on gallops

SPORT

World's finest gather in California for ultimate test of skill



WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24 1999

Old guard comes under heavy fire

Baron seeks to drive RFU forward

By David Hands, Rugby correspondent

FRANCIS BARON. Rugby Football Union's (RFU) chief executive for no more than five months, delivered a withering critique yesterday of the ills that have cost the RFU so much in financial and moral terms. "If this were a plc." Baron said, "heads would have rolled long ago."

It is Baron's brief to make the RFU the "financial powerhouse" of rugby in the British Isles within the next three years. To do so, he must drag it out of the morass of bureaucracy and debt that has accumulated over the past four years and restore the authority that once came naturally to the country that founded the game but whose popularity in world terms has never been lower.

He painted a bleak picture. when he joined last October. of demoralised staff embracing a "culture of resignation". of a lack of responsibility and accountability or of any formal business plans, of regular reports from the union's different areas within a governing body including 56 "mountain of paperwork".

Although the union has budgeted for a £1.4 million loss in the present financial year. Baron estimates that it will be more like £2.3 million, given legal costs and the poor financial return from England's World Cup qualifying games at Huddersfield. Budge Rogers, the RFU junior via president who has produced a report on the future structure of the union, was equally sombre.

"I was appalled, returning to the game after a long time away, by what had gone on in the RFU Council," Rogers said. "Discussion of minutiae by over 50 people, not just at one meeting but at the next

and the next." It is his task to convince a special meeting of the union on March 28 of the need to reduce the council members to around 43, to reduce the number of committees to three and to strengthen

the existing constituent bodies. sat on Sir George Mallaby's review of the RFU in 1972, the union's turnover was £130.000. Now it is more than £30 million and has the potential to be ten times that figure if Baron, who has already slashed staffing levels by

nearly 20 per cent, can achieve his "lean and focused" management levels and offer the union's potential commercial partners a governing body "organised in a way they can understand and respect". Not the least of the union's

woes has been the increased amount of money paid to consultants and lawyers; over the past two years the RFU has lost £10.3 million yet in-creased staff by 59 per cent and, in the past financial year, legal fees doubled to £520,600. Since then, the union has been



TWO

fined twice by the International Rugby Board (TRB), quite apart from the brief period when England were suspen-ded from the Five Nations Championship.

We want to restore good working relationships with the IRB and are considering the best way of achieving that," Baron said. He also hopes to sit down with his Five Nations colleagues to discuss the accord over the championship, after England's failure to acknowledge it swiftly enough caused the temporary rupture last month. It clearly remains an irritant to England that the contribu-tions of France and, next season. Italy to commercial arrangements for the championship have yet to be defined.

passive attitude going forward," Baron said, in an acknowledgement that since he took up his post, the RFU has been firefighting on several fronts. Yet his management board has yet to determine its stance on payment of IRB fines complaint by English clubs to the European Commission and the Anglo-Welsh series and must do so early next month when the appeal period will have ended.

We are maintaining a dialogue with the IRB because we both want to find the right way forward," Baron said. An appeal would only add to the union's mounting legal costs, as would any further disputes with leading clubs in the event of, say, Bristol pushing through a wholesale merger with London Scottish or Cardiff buying into an Allied Dunbar Premiership club. Baron acknowledges the loopholes existing in rugby's regu-lations, which were framed for a less commercial - and litigious - era, but insists that new rules cannot be rushed through if they do not take account of national and

European law. Simon Barnes, page 45



Jordan gave warning yesterday that Hill may retire from Formula One racing if the former champion is not satisfied with his success or form

High hopes weigh heavily on Hill

DAMON Hill could walk away from Formula One if his season collapses in failure and without victories, according to the man who is paying him E5 million to drive this year.

Eddie Jordan yesterday weighed up the prospects of the 1996 world champion after last season when his fortunes veered from near disaster, and threats of retirement, to ecstasy with a maiden win for the Jordan team at the Belgian

Grand Prix. Far from a burden being lifted, Jordan, and Hill, now find that expectations have been raised and the team will be thought of as having failed if it cannot do better than last season when it showed spectacular improvement in performance. Hill goes into the first race on March 7 in Australia as the oldest driver in Formula One at the age of

the end of the road for the former world champion

mains insistent that a last "If he does a good job for us, we will want him to stay," championship is not yet beyond him. However, there is Jordan said. "If he doesn't do a only a year left of Hill's good job. then I think he will. contract with the team, and not want to. He has a much Jordan is realistic enough to stronger character than people think but if it is not going well understand that Hill will not be satisfied with a lukewarm and it all gets on top of him, he season running in the midfield will decide to go."

while the championship is contested by old adversaries, such as Michael Schumacher. Jordan and his team certainly do not want Hill to leave and Jordan believes the Jordan believes Hill would former champion is in the prefer to retire than face an mood to improve on the sucextra season with little proscess of last season. In spite of pect of victory. Worse still, Hill winning a championship and most of his races with Wil-liams, Hill brought Jordan a faces the added pressure of knowing he has to outperform maiden victory after the team's eight seasons of trying his new team-mate. Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the man

Nobody knows better than the Englishman that time is if he is to dispel any lingering place in the team's history.

When he is sitting with his doubts over his ability. grandchildren on his lap, he will probably think back that probably the greatest win of his career was with Jordan,"

> expected Damon to win at Williams, but bringing Jordan, a middle of the pack team, to a one-two finish is a credit to him. "We are getting good vibra-tions from Damon, and he says there is no comparison between the car he started with

Jordan said. "Everybody

last season and the one he will take to Melbourne for the first race. He has worked hard with the team and he is happy with the changes we have made and the way we are look-

Kevin Eason on how a disappointing year could signal ing at the season. I hope he will actually improve this year because we want to be one of the top three teams."

As lordan spoke in his factory outside Silverstone. British American Racing (BAR) was on the track unveil ing the compromise livery for its new cars. The team was ordered not to run its cars in two separate liveries with the colours of different cigarette brands belonging to owner. British American Tobacco.

The team's answer was to paint the cars in half one. colour and half the other, a scheme BAR hopes will pacify sponsors, thought to be ploughing £350 million into the newest team on the grid. It will not be enough, though, to prevent the team appearing in front of the FIA, the sport's governing body, facing a disrepute charge for challenging the rules on car liveries.

TIMES

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Tottenham looking to extend cup sequence

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

WHEN George Graham is happy, he exudes a warm glow and a smile bordering on smugness. Graham, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, is smiling a lot at the moment and has every right to as he leads his side into their FA Cup fifth-round replay against Leeds United, his former club. at White Hart Lane tonight. Since Graham left Elland Road in October, he has revitalised a team that was drifting nowhere under the apparently haphazard guidance of Christian Gross. Not so much in the FA Carling Premiership, in which a series of draws have restricted their progress, but in the knockout competitions, in which they have not lost in II matches this

Tottenham reached the final of the Worthington Cup last week when they defeated Wimbledon i-0 at Selhurst Park. They will play Leicester City at Wembley on March 21 and victory this evening would ease them into the FA Cup quarter-finals and a tie away to Barnsley, from the Nationwide League first division.

Graham, as always, advises caution. "Let's not get carried away yet," he said yesterday. "We've come a long way in the past five months, probably farther than I expected and with more success than I expected, but let's not get greedy. Getting to Wempley is

There are still a lot of

United deny making offer for Rivaldo

MANCHESTER UNITED yesterday denied that they had made an offer for Rivaldo, the Barcelona forward, even though the player claimed that he had rejected advances from the dub.

United were reported to have launched an £18 million bid for the Brazil international. However, a United spokesman said: "There is no truth in this — it is nonsense." Josep Maria Minguella,

Rivaldo's agent, provided details of the supposed offer, which would mean United having to pay up to £66 mil-lion to release Rivaldo from his contract at Barcelona. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, is an admirer of Rivaldo, but there would appear to be linte point in trying to prise him away from the Nou Camp now, for Rivaldo would be ineligible for the European Cup. Liverpool moved swiftly yes-

terday to end speculation sug-gesting that Michael Owen had reached an agreement with Lazio that, if he decided to leave Anfield, the Rome club would have the option of first talks. "Michael has assured us that he has not made any agreement with any club to talk to them now or in the future." Ian Cotton. a Liverpool spokesman said.

Ronaldo struggles, page 44 Rovers dig deep, page 44

things to achieve, and time is the only answer when you're building something. The players have been fantastic. They've had a really hard programme and their mental attitude has been good. But I still need a bigger and more talented squad." Tottenham have played 13

league and cup matches since Christmas, none of which they have lost. Leeds have been on the go, too, playing only one game fewer over the same period, and have held up remarkably well considering the number of injuries that David O'Leary, the manager, has had to contend with. O'Leary's younger players have filled the gaps admirably and will have learnt much from their experi-

Lucas Radebe, the Leeds central defender, embarks on an exhausting schedule of three games in six days this evening. South Africa have given him permission to play at White Hart Lane but he must leave after the game and fly to Johannesburg, where he will play against Gabon in the African Nations' Cup on Saturday.

He returns to England over the weekend in time for Leeds's game against Leicester City on Monday. "I'm hoping to get some rest along the way so I'll be OK for the matches, he said.

"It's part of my life, you have to get on with it. After it's over, I hope I'll look back on it and be proud of what I've done."

LINKS



Alan Lee takes up the reins ALAN LEE, above, is to

become the racing correspondent of The Times. Lee, 44, has been the paper's cricket correspondent since 1988, when he succeeded John Woodcock, and takes up the reins of his new gost for one of the highlights: of the racing calendar. the Cheltenham Festival,

next month. Lee, who has been shortlisted for sports reporter of the year in the British Press Awards, has a longstanding interest

and involvement in: racing. He is the author. of several books on racing including the acclaimed biography of Fred Winter, Lambourn, Village of Racing: Jump Jockeys and other works with Peter Scudemore: and Pat Editory,

